THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.—POPE.

NEGRO SLAVERY.

THERE is a considerable degree of ill-blood existing on this subject, a good deal of misrepresentation, and some falsehood. The Abolitionists, on the one hand, have created, we do believe, an exaggerated general impression from true individual facts—while the West Indian body have, by an equally unfair mode of generalization, branded all the statements of their adversaries with a sweeping stigma of false colouring and fanaticism. We do not believe that so general a system of cruelty prevails in the Colonies, as some would strive to represent—but we do believe that *cases* of terrible oppression occur from time to time on the estates which are under the rule of individuals of little humanity, and that the laws give slender security against them. We do believe that where a planter *is* cruel, he has but slight restraint upon his cruelty—and, above all, we are intimately and firmly convinced that the whole system of slavery is productive of every species of moral evil.

At the same time, we are well aware of the extreme difficulties which perplex the subject—and we have much consideration for the individuals whose interests are affected by its agitation. The system did not begin in their days. It originated in times (the *good* old times!) when the lives, the liberties, the dearest and deepest feelings of our fellow-men, were held as nothing when compared with our own interests—when as yet our minds were not alive to any humanity and justice beyond those connected with our own immediate race. We do not, however, impute guilt even to these originators of a state of society so fraught with iniquity and evil, for in those days the minds of men did not regard it to be so, and we can act only according to our lights. But be it always borne in mind, that these are the times—these the feelings—this the state of moral enlightenment,—to which a certain class among us so fondly and so constantly refers. At that period no Englishmen ever dreamt that there was more harm in tearing a fellow-being, who chanced to be born of a different, and (in our esteem) an inferior, colour and formation, from his country, and all the ties which that word includes, to subject him to a treatment of which the records make the flesh creep*—and, finally, to keep him in perpetual and laborious slavery;—no European, we say, at that date, saw more harm in this than in catching, training, and working any of the animals which man has subjected to his rule. But (we thank Heaven) the good old times, with all their abominations of morals and of practice, have passed away. With the expansion of intellect and the increase of knowledge, the advance of humanity has gone hand in hand,—and by degrees we have come to consider those things to be in direct violation of human right and unalterable justice, which formerly we daily practised without a scruple or a question.

Among the chief of these is SLAVERY.—No one now denies or doubts its being *ab origine* a Moral Wrong—a most direct and monstrous invasion of the natural Privileges of Man—a most unqualified assertion of the superiority of physical power over moral right,—to oppose and destroy which principle is the chief, we might almost say the sole, end of human society. Such are the ideas which the improvement of the mental world has carried with it;—but between recognizing an evil to be one, and the power to remedy it, there is, alas! a fearful space. Neither would it be just to try men on new principles for acts done long before such principles were admitted or even known. In the present instance, it would be indeed a flagrant example of *ex-post facto* judgment;—for the existing body of slave-proprietors had no share in the original establishment of the system, nor (hitherto) any choice as to its continuance. They have inherited property of a nature now, indeed, received to be at variance with the great principles of human right,—but handed down to them before such feelings were known;—and it is truly too Utopian a degree of virtue to expect that they should, on the first dawning of this new light, divest themselves of nearly, if not quite, all that they possess in the world. Such things are not in human nature—neither, in the present case, would such a proceeding accomplish its object, if they were. Sudden emancipation would be to the Negroes themselves an evil inferior only to their original enslavement.

Thus far, therefore, we go along with the Planters in the controversy—and agree that they are hardly treated by the sudden outcry which is raised against them; an outcry originating, we believe and admit, in motives of true philanthropy—but perverted and made dangerous by mistaken zeal in some, and absolute fanaticism in others. But we are far, most far, from coinciding more generally in the views of the West Indian body. They cannot so completely fly in the face of the universal feeling upon this subject, as directly to defend slavery as such;—but they attempt to soften away its evils by representing the Slaves as happy and contented;—and while they recognize the justice and necessity of *gradual* emancipation, they will never fix a term for such graduation to begin, but resist furiously every measure which is proposed with that object.—If the matter were left to them, the degrees would be gentle indeed;—if a man were gifted with the length of life of the Wandering Jew, he would not need to fear living to see freedom established in the West Indies. As to the assertion that Slavery in the Colonies is so delightful a condition—that the Negroes are *contented and happy*,—we would just ask how this is to be reconciled with their ardent longing for Emancipation, and their frequent insurrections to accomplish it?

Having said thus much as to generalities, we will proceed to examine the debate of Tuesday evening a little in detail.

Before we enter into the discussion of the measures brought forward by Ministers, we must say a few words as to their proposed application. The Resolution of last year pledged the Government "to adopt effectual and decisive measures for ameliorating the Slave Population of *His Majesty's Colonies*,"—and the redemption of that pledge is an Order in Council for the regulation of *one* Colony, and that a small one. No reservation or exception was made in the Resolution itself, which therefore distinctly included all;—and, on its being suggested that there might be opposition on the part of those islands which possess a Colonial Legislature, Mr. CANNING said, that in that event "His Majesty's Government would not hesitate to come down to Parliament for counsel,"—thereby specifically intimating that such colonies were to be included in the measures generally to be adopted. Of this discrepancy between promise and performance, Mr. BUXTON complains strongly, and with considerable appearance of justice. It was upon the faith of this promise that Mr. B. and the friends with whom he has acted in this business, resigned all further interference,—and no one can deny the vast and extreme degree of the difference complained of. The truth is

* We allude to the slave-ships.

as Mr. CANNING almost admits in terms, that he dreads mooting the question of the extent of authority possessed by Parliament over the Colonial Assemblies,—and he, therefore, applies the new regulations at first to one—(the others we are told are to follow)—of those islands immediately under the domination of the Crown,—trusting to the *example* of the benefits of the change to induce the Planters to adopt it universally. Really this is a most paltry tampering. It is certainly an ebullition of the Right Honourable Secretary's well-known facetiousness, to hold forth such an expectation. Of all men in the world, we know none less likely to be gulled by such humbug as this. But he wishes to shirk a ticklish and hazardous question, and therefore he strives to back out of the scrape in this way. Now we must be permitted to think, that he ought to have considered all this before he made the distinct pledge of last session. The probability of a dissent on the part of the Colonial Assemblies was evident, and indeed was suggested and discussed. He either ought not to have said what he did then,—or he ought not to act as he does now.

We are quite ready to admit that the question is sufficiently perplexing; and that, on all accounts, the bringing it to an issue ought to be avoided if possible. On general principle, and on indifferent subjects, we should naturally respect the doctrine of representation, and consequently side with the Provincial Legislatures;—but the present matter alters the case entirely. If we grant the principle, we leave the unhappy slaves wholly in the hands of their task-masters,—and we have already said, what hope of freedom is to be anticipated from them! But thus it always is;—this is the curse which ever visits the establishment of a system contrary to the great laws of moral right. It leads to all manner of contradictions and entanglements of principle, and must end in the sacrifice of some.

We lament, therefore, that provisions similar to those of the Order in Council are not extended to all the islands. No emancipation can take place without great amelioration of the moral condition of the slaves; and, inasmuch as it leads to emancipation, we are convinced this will never be done without our interference. These provisions are extremely moderate, and their effects can be only gradual. No danger need be apprehended if they are fairly and judiciously applied. We are the farthest in the world from wishing for any violent innovation. Indeed, we are sure that every Member who spoke on Tuesday night must have felt what responsibility attached to his words,—in reference to their effects upon the minds of the slave population;—and even in our more limited degree of influence, we proceed with hesitation and timidity, when we reflect that what we now write in our closet will, with the next packet, be carried in multiplied copies to the spot where these matters are not those of abstract right or general policy, but of immediate and daily operation on the business, the bosom, and the life of every man. We can judge of the inflammable nature of the feelings which must exist in the minds of the slaves, and how very little it needs to fire them;—we know also full well to what awful scenes of blood and devastation such an explosion would lead. Surely, then, it is the duty of every one who is a real well-wisher to humanity, to pacify rather than to excite—to soothe rather than to goad—these too natural, but (in their consequence) *terrible* sentiments,—still however (and the junction is compatible) keeping in view the ultimate establishment of that which is an innate, inherent, and unalienable right.—In this spirit, we shall proceed briefly to notice the alterations which are now proposed.

The first of these is the total abolition of the whip with reference to females. Our readers perhaps scarcely knew that in the Colonies women may be, and constantly are, stripped naked, laid upon the ground, held down by four persons, and flogged with a cart-whip! They will be still more surprised to learn, that the Planters who are to profit by the example of Trinidad, on the proposition being made to them to abolish female flogging, although it was backed by the recommendation of the West Indian body in this country, at once rejected it,—as Mr. BUXTON says, "ferociously and scornfully."—But without adopting these terms of irritation, the lamentable feeling prevalent on this subject is sufficiently evident, from the circumstance of a Mr. HAMDEN [HAMDEN! *chem!*] whose speech in the Assembly at Barbadoes is cited as the most liberal and moderate of those which have been made on the occasion,—after declaring himself friendly to the reduction of the fines on manumission, the abolition of Sunday markets, and other measures of amelioration, declaring that "this very proposition showed that Lord BATHURST was a bitter enemy to the Colonies, vanquished by his own fanatical feelings." The abolition of this disgraceful system is among the measures of Mr. CANNING;—surely *this*, at least, might have been [illegible] islands;—we trust that it soon will.

[illegible] abolition of the whip as a stimulus to labour, [illegible] punishment, to "restrictions and regulations, [illegible] witnesses, and, which is perhaps the most [illegible] to the recordation of the amount of the infliction."

For this also Mr. CANNING merits our praise—for we fear that the *total* extinction of this horrid punishment is not *yet* attainable. The third provision is for the religious instruction of the Negroes. Mr. CANNING says, that "it is intended to extend to that part of the empire a large Religious Establishment, founded on the basis of the National Church, but not exclusive of others who serve with zeal in the same cause." Moral instruction is doubtless good; but if the colonial Establishment is to resemble the parent one in its riches, pride, and corruption, we fear the Negroes will be little edified by the preachings of its members against the "pomps and vanities of this wicked world."

Then come what may probably be considered the most immediate of the alleviations proposed—alleviations not only the best and dearest in themselves, but most likely to be of strong operation in moral improvement;—we mean the encouragement and protection of marriage,* and the prevention, in all sales, of any separation of families. Concerning this last enactment, we shall content ourselves wirh quoting an instance cited by Mr. BUXTON of the effects of the contrary practice. We scarcely remember to have been more *shocked* than when we read it:—

"I will mention to the House," said Mr. B., "an atrocious case, which the recent events at Demerara brought under notice. In August last, a Negro, named Dillon, was attached to an estate called Clonbron, in Demerara. This Negro was a most respectable man; he had lived with the same woman 18 years, and had 13 children by her. The property having been divided between the two sons of the proprietor, this man was separated from his wife and children, and carried away to another estate. He was denied all access to his family, and threatened with severe flogging if he attempted to visit them. To complete his distress, he found himself advertised for sale, and had nothing before him but the prospect of being carried away to such a distance as would deprive him of all hope of ever again seeing his family. The day named for the sale was the 27th of August; the insurrection broke out on the 18th. It was perfectly natural that this man should be found among the ranks of the insurgents, and when the last despatches left Demerara, he was hanging in chains at George-Town!"

The next provision is the security of property. There has been no great practical evil on this subject, for by *custom* the Negro has been permitted to acquire property;—it is now made his by law. With this goes, of course, the right of bequest; and Savings Banks are to be established for his encouragement and security.

We now come to a very important point,—the admissibility of the evidence of the slave; and on this question we are compelled to dissent from the views taken by Government. At present, as the law stands, the testimony of a Negro against a white man is not legal evidence, while it is so with reference to his own race. This amounts, as is evident in principle, and is proved by facts, to the hindering and hazarding of justice in all cases where a Negro has to complain of a White; and (from the fewness of white witnesses and other circumstances) to a total denial of it in the great majority. Mr. CANNING proposes, to remedy this evil, that, as the Negroes individually advance in improvement, they shall receive a certificate of their fitness to give evidence, from "those under whose superintending care they are instructed." This is to be a general certificate, and not granted as the case occurs; but still it will be open to great abuse,—and, as it appears to us, the whole thing is grounded on a mistaken principle. In the first place, his evidence being received or rejected, according to the parties in the suit, is a monstrous anomaly. A Negro either is or is not capable of understanding the nature of an oath, or at least the moral good of truth, and the moral guilt of falsehood,—which is all that is required in our own courts at home. If he be so capable, he ought to be *admitted* as a witness in every case whatsoever; if he be not, he should be rejected in all. The error has arisen from a confusion between the *competency* and the *credibility* of a witness. Many witnesses are competent,—that is, whom a Judge cannot refuse to hear,—who may ultimately prove not at all worthy of credit. The refusal to admit a man to give evidence is lawful only in cases of flagrant and undeniable mental incapacity, of legal infamy, or of some such intimate connection with the case or the party, as to have caused it to be laid down as a broad rule, that a person so circumstanced shall not be received as a witness. If he labour under none of these incapacities, his evidence must of necessity be received; but it afterwards remains for the Jury to judge how far this competent witness is credible. Mr. CANNING, to support his position, that "it would be as wild to say that the Negro shall be indiscriminately admitted as a witness, as it would be unjust to say that he should be indiscriminately rejected,"—compares the case to that of children in this country. Now all children are admitted as witnesses who have sufficient "sense and understanding to know the nature and obligations of an oath, *or even to be sensible of the wickedness of telling a*

* Cohabitation has hitherto in great measure usurped its place, and is said to have been much encouraged by the Planters.

*deliberate lie."** Does Mr. CANNING, then, mean to assert, that the Negroes know no distinction between truth and falsehood? We cannot think that he does; there is scarcely a savage that bears the form of man, who knows not thus much. And this is all that is needed to give the slave, according to the laws of this country, a right to be admitted as a witness. How far his evidence may subsequently be warped by impure motives is quite another point,—and one reserved for the decision of the Jury, together with the facts of the case. It may be thought that we are making a quibbling distinction, where in fact no substantial difference exists,—for that a witness who ought not to believed ought not to be admitted; but, with regard to the furtherance of the great object of all trials, the prevention of crime or of wrong, the difference is immense. The fear of conviction would operate very differently on the mind of a man who might injure a Negro before an hundred of his fellows, knowing that they would not be allowed to speak against him at all,—and on that of another, who knew they would be *heard* at least, and the probable truth or falsehood of their testimony weighed and determined by a Jury. The first case relates to *competency*, the last to *credibility*.

If Mr. CANNING does mean to say advisedly and unqualifiedly, that the Negroes have no knowledge of truth and falsehood, *then* the West Indians are caught on the other horn of the dilemma so admirably put by Mr. BUXTON—"how completely does it disclose the whole nature of Slavery!—Here is a population on which, as it is said, we have bestowed every thing which can conduce to their welfare—every thing which is calculated to improve their habits; and yet when we come to examine into their condition we find them in so low, deplorable, and despicable a state, that in point of fact they are not even fit to rank with the Proberts and the Hunts of this country."—We scarcely think it possible to escape from *both* these alternatives.

We have gone so much at length into this point that we must content ourselves with merely noticing the two remaining ones. Important, indeed, as they are, it is the less necessary to dwell upon them, as we have only to name them, for them to meet with universal approbation—the one is the abolition of the fees on manumission, the other is the granting the slave the right of purchasing his freedom, or that of his near kindred.

These are the principal regulations of the Order in Council—and, with the exception we have noticed with respect to evidence, we give them our most cordial and hearty concurrence.† Our only regret is that they are not extended to all the Islands—for we think that no man who views the subject disinterestedly and dispassionately can consider them too sudden, rash, or sweeping. They are directed only towards mental light and moral improvement—objects which no humane slaveholder can deprecate, and which are alone the true sources to which the friends of liberty must look for final emancipation. We hail with the greatest satisfaction the first real step towards the erasure of that stigma on our policy, that blot on our annals—the existence of slavery within the countries under our dominion. We hail it with the more hope, as we believe it is *in earnest*, and hence a token that self-interested parties will be no longer left to act according to their pleasure; and, also, as it is practicable and moderate, and free from all taint of rashness or fanaticism. We have a great duty to perform—but care—scrupulous, sensitive care—may and must be taken that we perform it in a manner not to endanger the property and the *lives* of so great a body of our fellow-countrymen.

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* Blackstone's Commentaries, vol. iv. 214.

† It is but justice to the West India body in *this country* to say, that they proposed some and agreed to several of them—and that one or two have been partially in practice in *some* of the islands. Trinidad itself is stated to be the most humane, then St. Lucie, Dominica, Tobago, and St. Kit's.

LITERARY NOTICES.

Don Juan. Cantos XV. and XVI.

WE observed last week that Canto XV. announced a forthcoming specimen of the supernatural, which the poet however prefaces with a few discursive remarks; as for instance:—

'The antique Persians taught three useful things,
To draw the bow, to ride, and speak the truth.
This was the mode of Cyrus, best of kings—
A mode adopted since by modern youth.
Bows have they, generally with two strings;
Horses they ride without remorse or ruth;
At speaking truth perhaps they are less clever,
But draw the long bow better now than ever.'

This advertence to veracity very naturally leads to a dissertation on scepticism, especially in regard to appearance after death; and therefore—

'Tis time to strike such puny doubters dumb as
The sceptics who would not believe Columbus.'

For this purpose—

'Some people would impose now with authority,
Turpin's or Monmouth Geoffry's Chronicle;
Men whose historical superiority
Is always greatest at a miracle.
But Saint Augustine has the great priority,
Who bids all men believe the impossible,
Because 'tis so. Who nibble, scribble, quibble, he
Quiets at once with "*quia* impossibile."'

The mansion of the noble host of Don Juan, Lord Henry Amundeville, had formerly been a Norman Abbey, as related in previous cantos, and consequently abounded in Gothic halls and appendages. Juan retires to his chamber at the close of a brilliant evening, but is more disposed for contemplation than for sleep. The result of this disposition is thus beautifully introduced. The pictorial allusions are in fine sentimental keeping:—

'Then, as the night was clear though cold, he threw
His chamber-door wide open—and went forth
Into a gallery, of a sombre hue,
Long, furnished with old pictures of great worth,
Of knights and dames heroic and chaste too,
As doubtless should be people of high birth.
But by dim lights the portraits of the dead
Have something ghastly, desolate, and dread.

'The forms of the grim knights and pictured saints
Look living in the moon; and as you turn
Backward and forward to the echoes faint
Of your own footsteps—voices from the urn
Appear to wake, and shadows wild and quaint
Start from the frames which fence their aspects stern,
As if to ask how you can dare to keep
A vigil there, where all but death should sleep.

'And the pale smile of Beauties in the grave,
The charms of other days, in starlight gleams
Glimmer on high; their buried locks still wave
Along the canvas; their eyes glance like dreams
On ours, or spars within some dusky cave,
But death is imaged in their shadowy beams.
A picture is the past; even ere its frame
Be gilt, who sate hath ceased to be the same.'

While thus musing, the spectre of a Monk, "arrayed in cowl, beads, and dusky garb," passes slowly by him.

'Once, twice, thrice passed, repassed—the thing of air,
Or earth beneath, or heaven, or t'other place;
And Juan gazed upon it with a stare,
Yet could not speak or move; but, on its base
As stands a statue, stood: he felt his hair
Twine like a knot of snakes around his face;
He taxed his tongue for words, which were not granted,
To ask the reverend person what he wanted.'

Juan returns to his chamber in a state of considerable trepidation; and cannot so shake off the effect as to appear with his usual ease and nonchalance at breakfast the next morning. His absence of mind and unusual gravity are in consequence noticed:—

'Then Henry turned to Juan and addressed
A few words of condolence on his state:
"You look," quoth he, "as if you had had your rest
Broke in upon by the Black Friar of late."
"What Friar?" said Juan; and he did his best
To put the question with an air sedate,
Or careless; but the effort was not valid
To hinder him from growing still more pallid.'

The tradition of the Abbey is then related to him: a black friar is supposed to have perambulated the mansion ever since it was torn from the church; and, according to tradition, the indignant shadow rejoices in the woe and grieves at the weal of the usurping possessors. This legend, it seems, has been versified into a ballad by Lady Adeline, who sings it, accompanied by her harp, to the assembled company. We cannot afford space for a specimen of the song; but in allusion to the intellectualities of the singer, the following stanza is characteristic and critical:—

'She also had a twilight tinge of "*Blue*,"
Could write rhymes, and compose more than she wrote;
Made epigrams occasionally too
Upon her friends, as every body ought.
But still from that sublimer azure hue,
So much the present dye, she was remote,
Was weak enough to deem Pope a great poet,
And what was worse, was not ashamed to show it.'

The morning of a rich magisterial landlord, while resident on his own estate, is then briefly sketched. The general nature of the business may be collected from the following stanza:—

'Now Justices of Peace must judge all pieces
Of mischief of all kinds, and keep the game
And morals of the country from caprices
Of those who have not a licence for the same;
And of all things, excepting tithes and leases,
Perhaps these are most difficult to tame:
Preserving partridges and pretty wenches
Are puzzles to the most precautious benches'

The open dining-day of a political and electioneering Lord is subsequently described with considerable point. The outline of the Lord himself is very pleasant:—

'Lord Henry was a great electioneerer,
Burrowing for boroughs like a rat or rabbit,
But county contests cost him rather dearer,
Because the neighbouring Scotch Earl of Giftgabbit
Had English influence, in the self-same sphere here;
His son, the Honourable Dick Dicedrabbit,
Was member for the "other Interest" (meaning
The same self-interest, with a different leaning.)

'Courteous and cautious therefore in his county,
He was all things to all men, and dispensed
To some civility, to others bounty,
And promises to all—which last commenced
To gather to a somewhat large amount, he
Not calculating how much they condensed;
But what with keeping some, and breaking others,
His word had the same value as another's.

'A friend to freedom and freeholders—yet
No less a friend to government—he held,
That he exactly the just medium hit
'Twixt place and patriotism—albeit compelled,
Such was his Sovereign's pleasure (though unfit,
He added modestly, when rebels railed)
To hold some sinecures he wished abolished,
But that with them all law would be demolished.'

* * * * *

'Heaven, and his friends, knew that a private life
Had ever been his sole and whole ambition;
But could he quit his king in times of strife
Which threatened the whole country with perdition?
When demagogues would with a butcher's knife
Cut through and through (oh! damnable incision!)
The Gordian or the Geordi-an knot, whose strings
Have tied together Commons, Lords, and Kings.'

The nicety of deportment necessary at these critical *open* dinner parties is pleasantly illustrated by the mishap of Juan, who, still disposed to ponder on his last night's adventure, commits an oversight in helping to some fish—

'And this, and his not knowing how much oats
Had fallen last market, cost his host three votes.'

Lady Adeline, "as was expedient," plays off her *grand role* at this scene of politic hospitality with so much address, that Juan has some doubt how much of her is *real*. The following is one of those physiological discoveries for which Lord Byron is so much distinguished:

'So well she acted, all and every part
By turns—with that vivacious versatility,
Which many people take for want of heart.
They err—'tis merely what is called mobility *,
A thing of temperament and not of art,
Though seeming so, from its supposed facility;
And false—though true; for surely they're sincerest,
Who are strongly acted on by what is nearest.

'This makes your actors, artists, and romancers,
Heroes sometimes, though seldom—sages never;
But speakers, bards, diplomatists, and dancers,
Little that's great, but much of what is clever.'

The change of scene when the above class of guests depart, is a very humourous "School for Scandal" sketch; and the manner of elegantly promoting the spirit of a general *cut-up* is admirably pourtrayed in the deportment of Lady Adeline:—

'True, she said little—'twas the rest that broke
Forth into universal epigram;
But then 'twas to the purpose what she spoke:
Like Addison's "faint praise," so wont to damn,
Her own but served to set off every joke,
As music chimes in with a melodrame.
How sweet the task to shield an absent friend!
I ask but this of mine, to——*not* defend.'

We have almost reached the extent of our limits, and must therefore briefly observe, that Juan once more retires to his chamber, and

'Again—what is't? The wind? No, no,—this time
It is the sable Friar as before,
With awful footsteps regular as rhyme,
Or (as rhymes may be in these days) much more.
Again, through shadows of the night sublime,
When deep sleep fell on men, and the world wore
The starry darkness round her like a girdle
Spangled with gems—the monk made his blood curdle.'

The Don is alarmed as before, but rouses up the "ghost within himself," and pursues the spectre, which in the first instance very spiritually avoids him, but at length he puts out his arm successfully, for—

. . . . . 'Wonder upon wonder!
It pressed upon a hard and glowing bust,
Which beat as if there was a warm heart under.

The ghost, if ghost it were, seemed a sweet soul
As ever lurked beneath a holy hood:
A dimpled chin, a neck of ivory, stole
Forth into something much like flesh and blood;
Back fell the sable frock and dreary cowl,
And they revealed——'

But we must not be too free with "the secrets of the prison-house." Suffice it to say, that we are left to conjecture, at the close of the Canto, whether this second visitation is to be a Bleeding Nun story, or not,—whether, in spite of the frolicsome personation, there is not hereafter to be a real friar in that tale, as there was a real nun. To be sure, there is much difference in the style of the romance of Lord Byron and of Monk Lewis.

There is something brisk and sparkling in this Canto XVI.;—an observation we should scarcely have made, if not quite certain that few of our readers will take our word for it. Q.

* 'In French, "mobilitè." I am not sure that mobility is English; but it is expressive of a quality which rather belongs to other climates, though it is sometimes seen to a great extent in our own. It may be defined as an excessive susceptibility of immediate impressions—at the same time without *losing* the past; and is, though sometimes apparently useful to the possessor, a most painful and unhappy attribute.'

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

WEST INDIES.

The *Jamaica Courant* of the 21st January contains the details of the trial of nine negroes, at Buff Bay, in that island, on the 10th of last January, for a conspiracy to revolt and murder the white inhabitants. Eight were convicted, and three of the eight were sentenced to be executed, and five to be transported. It appeared from the evidence, that these unhappy persons were in communication with a brigand from St. Domingo, of the name of Baptiste, and that the mulatto Lecesne, who had been a short time before sent off the island through the decision of the Governor, had secretly supplied them with arms. The principal witnesses were a runaway slave named Charles Mack, and another slave of the same name as the alleged emissary from St. Domingo. According to this testimony, it appeared that a slave named Henry Oliver had assumed the title of King; that a conspiracy was formed by him and others to murder all the whites who should oppose their cause; that they collected money and bought arms with it; that they attended nightly meetings, at which they were drilled with sticks and wooden swords; that they had fixed on the 26th of last December for the insurrection, and that one night, happening a fortnight before Christmas, they assembled in the presence of an Obeah-man, who cut Henry's finger and mixed the blood with rum, which they drank as a charm to make them brave for the battle against the whites. At one time the witness Baptiste says that Oliver had been King for six years; at another time, that the conspiracy had been going on for three years; and lastly, that Oliver declared the white people would not give them three days in the week, as the Governor wished them to do, and therefore they must take it. Again, they had been collecting money to buy arms for three years together, and had only procured fourteen muskets, and yet, with this formidable array of weapons, they had fixed the insurrection for the night after Christmas, when they were to rise, rush in and murder the overseer and bookkeeper on Balcarrass plantation, and then commence a general massacre up as far as Cedar Valley. Their signal for indiscriminate murder was to be four candles on a board, or a torch, and shown from the tops of the barbique walls, as a general signal to the surrounding negroes to commence the work of massacre. The runaway slave was not in the house where the alleged conspirators met, but says he saw them, through the chinks of the houses, take the oath with blood and rum. It does not appear that any arms were actually found, except two fowling-pieces, one belonging to Oliver, the other to a slave who was acquitted, and both used for shooting birds and wild hogs.

All except Haughton, who was only found guilty of having arms in his possession, were condemned as follows:—

James Thompson, John Macfarlane, James Meynard, John Spalding, and James Brœm, to be transported for life, and if they return to be hanged; and Henry Oliver, Richard Montagnac, and Denis Ker, to be hanged at such time and place as the Governor may appoint.

According to subsequent information, Henry Oliver would alone be executed on the 30th January. Ker and Montagnac to be transported. Upon the whole, it is evident this conspiracy, such as it is, differs little or nothing from many which have preceded it, long before abolition or emancipation formed a subject of controversy in the British Parliament. Indeed, conspiracy and insurrection are the attendant evils of every species of slavery. The missionaries, too, are absolved in this instance, unless it be contended that *they* countenance the rights of the Obeah. We apprehend that these trials will not affect much of the prevalent opinion on the general subject in Great Britain.

UNITED PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, March 15.

IRELAND.

Lord CLIFDEN presented a petition from Kilkenny, praying for the repeal of the Tythe Composition Act. His Lordship observed, among other things, that the weight of two Churches pressed upon the loins of that poor country (Ireland) and that neither security nor peace would ever prevail till something was done in the way of conciliation, though the Country was well calculated to become a mine of wealth and the right arm of the Empire.—The Petition was ordered to be printed.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Lord LANSDOWN, having received information from Lord Liverpool, that no answer had been received from the Spanish Government in reply to the last despatch of Mr. Canning,—proceeded to make various observations upon the propriety and advantage of an immediate acknowledgment of the independence of the States of South America. The question, he said, involved the interests of more than 21 millions of people, who occupied an extent of country larger than that of Russia in Europe and Asia,—a country blessed with a most favourable climate, and which contained within itself all the sources of social improvement, and all the elements of future strength and greatness. His Lordship contended that it was both just and expedient to recognize those States without loss of time. They were *de facto* independent, there was no prospect that Spain would ever be able to repossess herself of them, and they were in a condition to maintain the relations of amity and commerce with other countries. In Mexico, a Spanish soldier had not been seen for two years, except in the castle of San Juan de Ullon, on the coast, the garrison of which, from its peculiar situation, might hold out for some time. In Guatimala, there was no Spanish force, nor in Columbia, which had been independent these 13 years. Buenos Ayres had also long been independent of Spain, and so had Chili. In Peru, Spain had 7 or 8,000 men, who had lately gained some advantages, but nothing was to be expected from such partial successes. It was impossible to suppose that those States could be brought again under the yoke of Spain, and therefore the right of recognition was complete.—Here the Noble Marquis noticed the judicious and honourable conduct of Colombia in her political regulations, particularly on the subject of Slavery, the gradual extinction of which she had decreed, and an excellent plan for that purpose was now in operation. As a proof of the state of public opinion, the Noble Marquis instanced the value of the Stocks of Spain and of the American States, at Amsterdam, where old Spanish Stock fetched only 51 or 52, while Chilian and other American Stock brought 82, as it did in every other money market. Lord Lansdown proceeded to notice the wish of the Continental Sovereigns to bring the American Republics under a Monarchical government, a plan, he hinted, which would not be permitted by the North American States. The old order of things in Europe, he said, had been overturned, and the Sovereigns had entered into confederacy which England could never support. Some of them boasted that they had 700,000 men in arms to support their new confederacy, which exercised a despotic power over the minor states, and declared that no change should take place, no amelioration be effected, that was at all in opposition to their peculiar views. (*Hear, hear!*) Italy, and then Spain, in endeavouring to improve their condition, had been overrun, and the latter country was occupied by French troops. We had not now a single friend upon the continent of Europe, and it was our duty to look out in America for new Allies, and the means of adding to our resources. The increase of our trade with South America might be estimated by what had occurred with the United States. Before the independence of North America, the exports to that country from this amounted only to 2,441,000*l.* for eight years; for the same time, after the independence, they reached 6,905,000*l.* which showed how preferable a free trade was to a system which shackled commerce. An unrestricted intercourse with the immense regions of South America would therefore be of the greatest advantage to us, and was another reason why we should formally recognize the new States, a recognition which would secure their confidence and friendship, and be of the utmost importance, as it would enable them to settle their internal dissensions and to consolidate their respective Governments. He did not apprehend that a war would be commenced against them from Europe; but it was evident that the allied Sovereigns were prepared to employ secret, but not perhaps less efficacious means, and of no very honourable character,—to retard the progress of independence by the promotion of internal dissension. To prevent such mischief, he called upon Government to announce at once the course it meant to pursue; and, as circumstances proved that a great political epoch had arrived, to adopt a system which would contribute both to the honour and prosperity of this country. (*Hear, hear!*) The Noble Marquis concluded by moving an address to his Majesty, "begging him to take such steps as may seem meet for acknowledging speedily the independence of the South American provinces, and establishing such diplomatic relations with them, as cannot fail to promote an amicable intercourse between them and this country, and conduce to our commercial advantage."

Lord LIVERPOOL said, he agreed in nearly all the principles advocated by the Noble Marquis, and only differed with him as to his application of them. He admitted that the freedom of the South American States had increased our trade; and he thought that Spain, if unassisted, could never reconquer those provinces. But what had been done already? In 1822, an Act was passed, which went to the extent of acknowledging the *de facto* independent Provinces, for it established a free commerce with those States; and from that time a free trade had existed. This was explained to the Spanish Government, who were also informed that other steps would follow. Our intention to send out Consuls was also announced, and when the success of France in Spain was manifest, those Consuls were dispatched,—thus giving a substantial proof of our intentions, which was worth a thousand words and acknowledgments of independence: and weeks before the American President's Message, we had declared, that though neutral with respect to Spain and her colonies, we would not see with indifference any attempts on the part of other countries, and *we had obtained from France an abjuration of any such intention.* He would say, therefore, that what had been done was all that could have been done, consistent with honour and good faith. The question then recurs, of what remains to be done? A formal acknowledgment of independence could properly only be made by the power who claimed dominion over another; and, in the formal sense of the word, we had no right either to acknowledge or dispute their independence. But he would admit there was one thing which remained to be done; namely—the opening a diplomatic intercourse; and that was the only thing—This, however, Lord Liverpool contended, was a matter which should be wholly left to the House, as it was a question of expediency; but he did not hesitate to say, that Government would keep the question in their hands, and as they would not go to a Congress, so neither would they give any pledge that would fetter their future conduct. It certainly was material that the acknowledgment of the independence of the provinces should be made by Spain; but considering the connexion which we had had with that country, it was thought right to give her the opportunity of making it. He might be told that he had been giving Spain that opportunity; but were his Majesty's Ministers wrong in considering the present as a new crisis? They wished Spain to go forward herself, and they were ready to give her every assistance in doing what was for the interest of Spain herself, for the interest of the colonies, and honourable to this country. This, he contended, was an object worthy of consideration where no substantial interest was sacrificed by attending to it. He was far from wishing to say what government the provinces should have: let them take that they liked best. In the papers on the table, regret was expressed that America had not chosen Monarchy; but that question would not govern the conduct of Government; such a Government as would maintain the relations of peace and amity was all they could look to. But there was another question—whether these Governments had so far the confidence of their own countrymen as to give any warrant for their stability? It was natural that Government should desire information on the subject, and some weeks or even months might elapse before they could be in possession of it.—This country had offered to mediate between Spain and the provinces. If that mediation had been accepted, a part of those provinces might have still been in connexion with the mother country. Now his Majesty's Ministers were in progress to what the Noble Marquis seemed to desire, but they wished to do it in a fair, liberal, and generous way. They had shown that they were determined the provinces should not be trampled on by any power or alliance whatever; but they kept this question in their hands as against Spain, and as against the alliance, and they kept it in the hands of the Crown, as being the exercise of its most legitimate prerogative. The Noble Lord wished to know whether the States of Europe would go to a Congress? It was impossible for him (Lord Liverpool) to say: possibly they did not themselves know; but to any such Congress this country would be no party. The Noble Earl concluded by moving as an amendment to the motion of the Noble Marquis, to leave out all the words after "That," and insert instead, the following words—"This House gratefully acknowledges his Majesty's goodness in directing the papers to be laid before this House, and the House feels great satisfaction in the assurance given by their perusal, that his Majesty's Government will continue in the further progress of this important question the exercise of those firm, moderate, and prudent measures, which have contributed to the glory and best interests of the British Nation."

Lord ELLENBOROUGH observed, that if the address of the Noble Marquis were not agreed to, it was plain that there was no security that the recognition of South American independence might not be postponed for an indefinite time. The question was not whether we should now recognize the independence of colonies separated from Spain, but whether we should recognize colonies once belonging to Spain, Spain being now in the power of France. (*Hear, hear!*) The whole conduct of France showed that she was anxious to seize the first opportunity of regaining her ascendancy in Europe by renewing the principles of the Family compact, and most assuredly those States would be attacked by France under the name of Spain. Who that had attended to late events could attach the smallest

credit to the denial on the part of France of that object? If Ministers were so blind to the views of France and the confederated powers of Europe, he could only deplore that blindness, and trust that the House would take a clearer view of the designs of France and the interests of this country. It was in vain that the interests of Spain had been mentioned, either in the negociations, or in the address of the Noble Earl. He (Lord Ellenborough) could not see Spain—he could not recognize the power of Spain in any of these transactions, because, look where he would, whether at Cadiz, at Burgos, at Pampeluna, or at Barcelona—in every part of the territory he saw French troops alone in possession. The praise of their moderation was not the least danger. He feared nothing so much in the issue of the Spanish affairs as that affected moderation in the French, which was connected with measures of essential violence.—Lord Ellenborough then noticed with much force that "bad Confederacy," by which the Holy Brotherhood of Monarchs bound themselves together for purposes hostile to the general interests of liberty; and he contended that the Constitution of England was inconsistent with their views, which went to the putting down the popular spirit wherever it might show itself; and that this country therefore was exposed to a danger, that should make it anxious to sieze upon every opportunity of creating new friends. Here his Lordship eloquently observed upon the advantages possessed by South America,—a country, he said, which was fresh and strong in youthful energies, with a soil of unheard of extent, the resources of which seemed even beyond the power of exhaustion—a country for the developement of whose resources the science of political economy, which was now making rapid conquests over the prejudices of the old States, seemed to have unrolled its clear and rational precepts—a country, in short, just about to succeed to all the advantages which the succession of ages had given to science and the institution of good government, and filled with every blessing which a bountiful Providence could shower upon any people.—He therefore felt most anxious and eager to have such a country for a friend, and he called upon the House not to be guided by the cold calculations of Ministers, but suffer themselves to be governed for once by the views and sympathies entertained by the British people towards a nation advancing in the same course of policy and power, by adopting principles entirely opposed to those of that Confederacy which aimed at the hearts blood and the life of every free constitution.

Lord CALTHORPE thought that the papers laid before the House were a credit to the administration and the country at large, whose opinions they faithfully represented. Yet though they gave just ground for confidence in Ministers, he could not forbear saying that they did by no means justify any confidence in the language of the Ministers of France. Under present circumstances, therefore, he could not conceive that the House could do better than confide in the prudence of Ministers, and leave them entirely to manage the result.

Lord LANSDOWN, in reply, contended that there was no reason for any further delay in acknowledging the independence of the South American States, and bid the House remark how much more creditable the conduct of the United States had been, in seizing upon the honour of that deed. They had acknowledged that independence with all due solemnities, because they felt that there was even more in the solemnities than in the immediate fact of recognition, to give those states consequence in the eyes of others, and also in their own. There was nothing to hinder the British Government from pursuing the same course. Not only would these States be the better for it, but the prosperity and glory of Europe would be increased, and would be eventually released from the thraldom of a Combination the most oppressive to the general liberties, hardly excepting the oppression of the system of Bonaparte himself.

The House then divided—For the motion, 34—Against it, 95—Majority, 61.

Tuesday, March 16.

WEST INDIAN SLAVERY.

A great number of petitions, praying for the abolition of Slavery or the improvement of the condition of the Negroes were presented by different Peers.

The Earl of ROSEBERY stated, that he had received several other petitions on this subject, which he could not present on account of informalities in drawing them up. Some of them, for instance, contained the word "*respectfully*" instead of "*humbly!*"

Earl BATHURST rose to lay before their Lordships papers explanatory of the measures for the amelioration of the condition of the West India Negroes, referred to in his Majesty's Speech at the commencement of the session, and which had been adopted in consequence of the resolutions voted by the House of Commons in May last. These resolutions he should, with the leave of their Lordships, now read. [See the report of the proceedings upon this subject in the House of Commons. Mr. Canning's speech gives the plan of Ministers, and to insert Lord Bathurst's, therefore, would be a sad repetition.—There was no debate in this House, for Lord HOLLAND only made a few remarks, and those not in opposition to the proposed measures.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 15.

A great many petitions were presented, from all parts of the country, principally against Negro slavery and (from Scotland) against the sudden cessation of the bounties on linen.

Mr. HUME presented a petition from certain rectifiers of British spirits resident in and near London, complaining that six or seven great distillers had a monopoly of the supply of spirits in London, and kept it short, in order to extort an undue price; also that the said distillers, notwithstanding an express law to the contrary, were themselves rectifiers. The petitioners therefore prayed that the monopoly might be destroyed by the licensing of small stills, and by their being allowed to distil from rum, which would likewise prove beneficial to the West Indies. Messrs. Hume and Ellice strongly supported the prayer of this petition, which was ordered to be printed.

BEER AND MALT DUTIES.

Mr. MABERLY said his motion on this subject had two objects—to save expense in the collection of the revenue, and to do away an inequality in taxation. At present there was a tax on malt of 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel—which was all that the private brewer paid; but on beer brewed by the public brewer there was besides a duty of 2*l.* 15*s.* a quarter; the result was, that the beer of the public brewer, which was chiefly drank by the poor, was taxed to the amount of 6*s.* 10½*d.* per bushel of malt, while that privately brewed, which was chiefly consumed by the wealthy classes, paid only 2*s.* 6*d.* Of 27 millions of bushels of malt, 16⅓ were used by the public brewer, 10⅔ by the private brewer; which showed how unfair a portion of the beer tax was paid by the lower classes, to whom beer was a necessary of life. To remedy this evil, he proposed that there should be no duty on beer, and that the duty on malt should be increased from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*—an amount which Ministers could not think too large, since during the war it had been 4*s.* 8*d.* In Ireland this transfer of the whole tax to malt had been effected, and the consumption of beer had increased in consequence. This arrangement would not add a farthing to the expense of collecting the duty on malt, while the whole of the cost of collecting that on beer would be saved; a saving which he calculated (although with some difficulty, because in the accounts the collection of this article was mixed up with that of others) at 295,000*l.* a year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had talked much of his attachment to equal taxation; and he (Mr. Maberly) called on him therefore to act up to his own professions on this occasion. If the House should refuse to institute an inquiry into this question, they would afford a strong argument in favour of reform; for they would clearly evince that they imposed taxes on the lower classes to save their own pockets. He concluded by moving that a Committee should be appointed to consider whether the present taxes on beer and malt might not be beneficially modified.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought this question had been satisfactorily decided against the Hon. Member last session. He denied that the asserted saving, by the transfer of the whole tax to malt, was made out. The same excise officer who collected the duty on beer, collected perhaps those on soap, candles, and other things; so that if the beer duty were abolished, it by no means followed that the expense of collection would be saved. His great objection was, however, that since even the present duty on malt was high enough to cause attempts to evade it, an additional duty would be a great stimulus to evasion, and render necessary an increase of excise officers to defeat it, and a consequent increase of expense. He confessed, abstractedly speaking, that the tax on beer operated unequally; but the Hon. Member had forgotten that those who brewed privately and on a small scale, did it at so much more cost than the public brewer, as brought it nearly to the same thing. The Hon. Member too assumed, that all those who purchased beer were poor, and all those who brewed it at home rich;—an extraordinary error. Nearly every person in the metropolis, including of course a large body of the nobility and gentry, purchased beer from the public brewer; while, on the other hand, many poor persons all over the country—small farmers, and even artizans—brewed their own beer. The proposed change would have the evil effect of driving those who now brewed their own beer, and shared it among their families at home, to seek for enjoyment in the public-houses. (*Hear, hear!*) The duty on beer had an incidental good effect, which, though it would be no argument against the reduction of the tax, formed one against its mere transfer:—he meant, a protection against adulterations which the consumer's palate would never discover.

Mr. HUME was astonished that the Right Hon. Gentleman should maintain, that the same number of excise officers would be employed without the beer duty as with it. The fact was, that no time was so fully occupied as that of excise officers; and if so considerable a portion of their duty as that in the breweries was saved, their number would be necessarily diminished. The Right Hon. Gentleman admitted the inequality of the tax, though he denied it to the extent asserted; and surely that was ground enough for going into a committee of *enquiry*. Independent of the justice of the claim, there was also policy; for if the tax were taken off the breweries, the consumption of beer would increase. (*Hear!*) The agricultural interests ought also to support the measure, for the increased demand for barley, which would follow its adoption, would far outweigh the operation of the transfer of the duty upon the agricultural classes.

Mr. WODEHOUSE and Mr. MONCK opposed the motion. The latter observed, that Ireland afforded no analogy, because there the rich drank wine and the poor whisky.

Mr. DENISON said the Hon. Mover had proved that the poor might be materially served by the transfer of duty, and the revenue benefited—how much, would be for the committee to enquire? In the country, the rich man, with his great establishment, brewed his beer 100 or 130 per cent. cheaper than the poor person.

The House divided—Ayes, 26—Noes, 130—Majority against the motion, 104.

MILITARY FLOGGING.

On the third reading of the Mutiny Bill,—

Mr. HUME moved a clause for the abolition of flogging in England and Ireland. He instanced the kingdom of Wurtemburg, where the army had been wonderfully improved by the substitution of confinement of different degrees of severity. He did not call for any change of system among our troops on foreign stations; but he wished the abolition of flogging to be tried as an experiment in the British islands; which could be done for one year by his clause, as the Mutiny Bill was an annual one.

Sir HUSSEY VIVIAN admitted, that it was policy in every commander to be sparing of corporal punishment, but contended that the *power* to inflict it was essential to discipline. Some nine or ten years ago he had the command of a regiment about a thousand strong. Of a sudden a remarkable increase of offences took place in it; and he was told by his adjutant, "The men have got into their heads, that Sir Francis Burdett has done away with corporal punishment, and therefore think they may do what they please." The army, it was to be recollected, was recruited from the lowest orders of society, over whom it was necessary to exercise a strong control. It was said solitary confinement would answer that purpose; but he would ask, what was to be done on that plan under such circumstances as the following:—At the settling-day, there were sometimes 50 or 60 culprits. Now, could each of these men be placed in solitary confinement? And if that were possible, would not the effect be to punish the innocent by throwing on them the duty of the guilty? *(Hear, hear!)* What was to be done too in time of war? When an army was marching, how could a straggler or marauder be placed in confinement? The Gallant Officer then adverted to the Peninsular contest, the retreat to Corunna, &c. and stated, that the French army, in its leisurely retreat to Toulouse, was guilty of such outrages, that the inhabitants hailed the British as deliverers. Much as he lamented it, therefore, he must contend for the necessity of vesting in courts-martial the power of corporal punishment. *(Cheers.)*

Sir R. FERGUSSON agreed with his Gallant Friend regarding the necessity of the present system with an army in warlike service; but that was no argument against the alteration during peace at home; and certainly no period could be more favourable than the present for the experiment. When he first had the command of a regiment, he was of opinion that its discipline could not be preserved without corporal punishment, and he had (he spoke it with regret) often ordered its infliction. Latterly he had adopted milder measures, and the result had been admirable. *(Hear, hear!)*

The House divided—For the clause, 47—Against it, 127.

Mr. HUME afterwards called the attention of the House to the regulation which compelled officers purchasing commissions to declare, that they had not given more than a certain fixed price, nor had bargained clandestinely—a declaration which, in nine cases out of ten, was not true, and which, though they certified it on their honour, they would be compelled, in a court of law, on their oath to deny.—Lord PALMERSTON and the Ministerial Members connected with the army, allowed the regulation to be a very bad one, and said the Duke of York was now considering its alteration. They, however, opposed a clause Mr. Hume moved, declaring that no officer should either be required or allowed to promise, on his word of honour, what he might be compelled by circumstances to violate; and the clause was in consequence withdrawn.

Tuesday, March 16.

A great number of petitions were presented, from various parts of the country, praying for the abolition of Slavery—several were presented against the Combination Laws, and others prayed for the repeal of the License Duty.—They were all ordered to lie on the table.

Dr. LUSHINGTON moved the appointment of a Select Committee, for the purpose of considering the expediency of consolidating and amending the Criminal Code.—Agreed to *nem. con.*

A resolution, correcting an error in the regulations regarding the Silk Trade, was agreed to, on the proposition of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

SLAVERY—WEST INDIAN COLONIES.

Mr. CANNING brought up various Papers, explanatory of the measures adopted by Government in respect to West India Slavery. He then desired the Clerk to read the Resolution on this subject, passed by the House on the 16th of May, 1823; which was done. It was as follows:—"Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, That it is expedient to adopt effectual and decisive measures for ameliorating the condition of the slave population in his Majesty's colonies:—That, through a determined and persevering, but at the same time judicious and temperate, enforcement of such measures, this House looks forward to a progressive improvement in the character of the slave population, such as may prepare them for a participation in those civil rights and privileges which are enjoyed by other classes of his Majesty's subjects:—That this House is anxious for the accomplishment of this purpose at the earliest period that shall be compatible with the well-being of the slaves themselves, with the safety of the colonies, and with a fair and equitable consideration of the interests of private property."—The Hon. Secretary then proceeded to notice the difficulties that encompassed the subject of West India Slavery, which frequently, he said, left only a choice of evils. In his view of the resolution just read, the intention of the House was to look to the final emancipation of the Negroes as the result of their gradual and general improvement, and not as the consequence of a proclamation of general freedom. *(Hear, hear!)* He had considered the question deeply; he was no advocate for the principle of permanent slavery, neither was he favourable to its immediate abolition. He looked to the result of gradual measures, producing gradual improvement, by which not only the individual slave should be set free, but his station be abolished for ever. *(Hear!)* He viewed this as he did the improvement of those states of Europe which once were most barbarous and were now most polished. He looked to it as a measure of co-operation from all parties—a measure that would eventually make its way rather by the light of reason than by the power of coercion. *(Hear!)* The papers on the table, he said, contained the scheme which Ministers had adopted for the purpose of carrying into execution the Resolution of the House of last session. The *experiment* of amelioration was to be tried at Trinidad, St. Lucie, and Demerara, in the view that, if they should be successful, they *might* operate as *examples* for the larger ones. Here the Hon. Secretary detailed the regulations contained in the Order of Council for Trinidad, which are in effect as follow:—1. The use of the whip, so indecent and so shocking, is to be utterly abolished in regard to female slaves. 2. The whip is no longer borne by the driver in the field; to be no longer employed as a *summary* punishment of the male Negroes; to be wholly laid aside as a *stimulus to labour*, and resorted to only as a chastisement for misbehaviour, deliberately proved and recorded. 3. Ample provision is to be made for the religious instruction of the Negroes, by the appointment of two bishops, with regular clergy under them. 4. Marriage is to be encouraged, families never to be separated, and the property of the slave is to be protected by positive law. 5. Banks are to be established, in which the slave may deposit his earnings: the money so placed to be sacred, in all cases, from the master's grasp. 6. The testimony of slaves, under certain limitations depending on personal character, is to be received in all civil cases, except when the master's immediate interests are concerned, and in all criminal cases, except when the life of a white person is involved. 7. The slave who has acquired a certain sum of money, is to have the *right* of purchasing his own manumission, or that of his wife or child; and thus the father may become, as it is fit he should, the instrument of liberty to his offspring.—This, Mr. C. said, was an outline of the plan for the amelioration of slavery in Trinidad, from which he expected much good would arise, as it respected the other colonies, generally, who, it was to be hoped, would follow the example, when they found that they could do it without danger.—Mr. Canning proceeded to notice Mr. Buxton's proposition for the emancipation of the children of the existing slaves—a plan which he could not agree to, believing it to be unwise to hold out to the Negroes the hope of emancipation for the next generation, as it would create great dissatisfaction among the existing race. The Negroes were to be treated as possessing only the sense of an infant; and before he was prepared for the enjoyment of well-regulated liberty, to turn him wild in the fulness of his physical strength, in the maturity of his physical passions, and in the infancy of his uninstructed reason, would be to imitate the man who was described in the Romance* published some time back, who constructed a human form with limbs of more than mortal mould, into which he infused passions and strength which were to it only the power of doing mischief; but being unable to impart to it a soul, he found that he had created only a savage giant, from which he himself recoiled with horror. *(Hear, hear!)* That would be the effect of sudden and unprepared emancipation. He therefore would proceed gradually, because he would proceed safely.—Mr. Canning here alluded to the extravagant conduct of some of the West Indian Assemblies, particularly to that of Jamaica, in which, he said, he saw much to condemn,—something to excuse, but nothing to punish. *(Hear, hear!)* It would be easy to select from the files of the *Jamaica Gazette*, passages which ought, according to all legitimate inference, to put Parliament in a most towering passion. *(A laugh.)* But he must confess, that upon considering the subject, his rising indignation was calmed by reflecting how powerless the body was that offered the insult, and how omnipotent the body was to whom the insult was offered. *(Hear!)* The consciousness of strength disarmed vengeance. Parliament would act wisely by telling the people in the West Indian islands, "You shall have no cause of complaint; if you will be angry, it shall be on the colonial question; and if you rebel, it shall be in behalf of the use of the whip." That would be the best way to stop the eloquence of the *patriots* of Jamaica. If Parliament did not add fuel to the flame, the fire itself would soon go out.—Alluding to the intended Ecclesiastical Establishment, Mr. C. said, that Jamaica and the Leeward Islands were each to be made the residence of a See, and that the expenses were to be defrayed, first from the interest of the sum voted for building the new churches, which would not be used for some time, and finally from the Barbadoes $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duties, of which his Majesty would graciously abstain from making any further distribution.—The Hon. Secretary hoped that Gentlemen who intended to take a part in the discussion of this important topic, would abstain from exaggerated statements and unguarded expressions, for to stir up discontent among the planters, through whose means alone the condition of the slaves could be improved, would serve to raise a flame which could be extinguished only in blood. *(Hear!)* He was quite satisfied that the trade in slaves was entirely abolished in respect to our Colonies, but it was perfectly true that the introduction of slaves into foreign Colonies continued to an enormous extent. This country had made ineffectual efforts to put an end to the horrible traffic. Government had proposed to France and America, that they should give the right of mutual search in cases of slave-trading, which was to be deemed piracy. France rejected the proposition; but a treaty had been signed with America, authorizing a vessel of either nation

* Mrs. Shelley's *Frankenstein.*

to detain that of the other, if it should be detected in carrying on the traffic in slaves. He trusted that the realization of this arrangement would not be the termination of its benefits; for when Europe saw the *two greatest maritime nations in the world* so far compromise their maritime pride, and act together for the accomplishment of such a purpose, they must feel, that in the future discussions for the universal abolition of the Slave Trade, the united remonstrance of such powers would receive no small force, and form, and character, in bringing others to think with them upon the necessity of coming to a common understanding, to support that true, virtuous, and beneficent confederacy for the total abolition of the Slave Trade. *(Hear!)* Mr. Canning concluded by moving for leave to bring in a bill for the more effectual suppression of the African Slave Trade. *(Loud cheers.)*

Mr. Fowell Buxton expressed his strong dissent to the chief portion of the speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman, and contended that the Resolution last Session pledged the House to an amelioration of the condition of *all* the slaves in our colonies, but now that amelioration was to be only partially applied, so that the pledge had not been redeemed, and the life of man might easily pass away without one step having been taken to accomplish the end which had been so solemnly determined upon. What was meant by leaving the matter to the light of reason—to gradual measures? *(Hear, hear!)* They might wait ten centuries before amelioration would be accomplished in this way. Government had plainly departed from its pledge to 700,000 human beings,—a pledge which ought to have been inviolable, as having been made in behalf of those who had not the power of complaint. *(Hear!)* The plan avowed was sound and just, but it did not go far enough. Come what may, he (Mr. B.) would not desert the cause he had espoused. It would have been better not to have raised hopes, than thus to level them with the dust. Why was the benefit to be confined to a small portion only of the Negro population? Except in Trinidad, as the law would stand, a female slave might be stretched upon the earth, and pressed down by four Negroes, whilst a fifth used the cart-whip upon her naked body. What improvement could be hoped for from such a revolting and degrading system? and what right had they to expect that the West India Proprietors would adopt the Right Hon. Gentleman's views in respect to the treatment of their slaves, after the conduct evinced in Jamaica and Barbadoes? Mr. Buxton here mentioned several atrocious instances of the ill-treatment of slaves, both male and female. One woman had been flogged naked, while in a state of pregnancy, in all parts of her body, and had miscarried from the torture! Another's wounds had been left to fester in the sun till her life was in danger. Such cruel practices brutalized the sufferers and the proprietors, and kept down all hope of improvement. The cart-whip and moral advancement were wholly incompatible; they could not exist together! *(Hear, hear!)* It was not true, as said by some, that the use of the whip was not general; and the brutal practice of stamping the names of the owners with a hot iron on the bodies of their slaves, was still continued by many proprietors. Under the proposed plan, justice would not be administered in many cases; and it was most strange, to reject the evidence of a black, where only a shilling of a white man's property was in jeopardy, while it was to be received in cases where the very life of a Negro was at stake! So that, after all we had heard for years of the great exertions made by the planters to improve the morals of the slaves, they were still not deemed fit to be placed on a level with a Probert or a Hunt! *(Hear!)* But such was the effect of the slave system, which went to degrade human nature, and to cut asunder all the ties of consanguinity and affection. In August last, a slave in Demerara named Dillon had lived with one female for 19 years, and had 13 children by her. His master died, and his sons divided the property: they separated the children, took the slave from his wife, and threatened to flog him if he ever went to see her or his children! When the insurrection broke out, this slave did what any man of common feeling would have done, he joined the insurgents; and when the last accounts came from Georgetown, he was hanging there in chains to expiate his offence! Was it not wonderful, that after all the fatal consequences of such a system, it should be sanctioned by English law? But the people of England, he knew, would not allow the pledge which had been given for the melioration of the Negroes to be thus frittered down; they would not insist upon immediate emancipation, which no one contended for; but they would insist on the House taking such steps as at some period, and that not a very remote one, would lead to the extinction of slavery itself. *(Hear!)* He was not unfriendly to the planters—[*Mister* Romeo Coates, who had been for some time annoying all the gentlemen in his immediate neighbourhood in the gallery, by indecent comments on the several speakers, here called out in a loud tone of voice—"I do not believe it,"]—though he had been so represented; he had always said, "Compensation to the planters—emancipation to the children of the slaves.

Mr. C. R. Ellis made various observations on Mr. Buxton's speech, and defended the general conduct of the planters. He approved generally of the plan proposed by Ministers, particularly of the new Ecclesiastical Establishment, from which he expected much benefit.

Mr. Wilberforce expressed his sorrow that the plan proposed had not been carried to a greater extent. He confessed he could not join in the hope expressed, that kind and beneficial measures would be adopted voluntarily by the slave-owners. We ought to conciliate them, he said, if possible; but if not, it was our duty to adopt the plan which justice and humanity called for. It was his deliberate and fixed opinion, that they were now on the brink of a precipice, and if they did not take care, they would find that the more they paused, the less energetic they were, the greater was the danger likely to become. *(Hear, hear!)* The Negroes were in a sort of tip-toe expectation that something would be done for them. What, then, would be the effect of prolonged deliberation? What would be the feelings of the Negroes, when they found that Parliament was at a loss how to proceed?—when they found the King's Government and the Secretary of State (whom they supposed to be so firm and sincere a friend to them) were at a stand? Why, the consequence would be, that those people to whom the cup of freedom had been offered—who saw it dancing and sparkling before their eyes, but from whose lips it was suddenly and unexpectedly dashed—would, in despair, take their cause into their own hands. *(Hear, hear!)* It was said that the dangers to which he alluded were never to be apprehended, except as consequences of such discussions as the present. The fact was entirely the other way. There never had been so few insurrections, during an equal period, as had broken out since he and his friends had called the attention of the House to the subject. When his Right Honourable Friend spoke of allowing the slave to purchase his freedom, he did not state that this was the Spanish law. That was, however, the fact. But he never heard that this permission was frequently acted on, or that it had been imitated by other colonies; and therefore he could not expect much from the experiment. His Right Hon. Friend hoped that he should be able to induce the other British colonies to follow this example. But let him look to the conduct of all the Colonial Assemblies with respect to the abolition of the Slave Trade, and then consider whether they were likely to follow, of their own accord, any example for the amelioration of slavery which might be recommended to them. They must not conceal from themselves what was the point at issue. It was simply this—whether the slave system should be put an end to by the Imperial Legislature or by the Colonial Assemblies: it was impossible this could be effected by the Colonial Assemblies: it must be done by the Imperial Parliament, or not done at all. *(Hear, hear!)* By endeavouring to effect this object in any other way, they were exciting irritation; and they might, perhaps, feel the effects of that despair which all would lament when too late, while they vainly wished that they had adopted another and a more direct course.

Mr. A. Baring made various observations on the plan proposed, and on the conduct of its opponents, neither of which met his approbation; but what, he said, he mainly complained of, was, that we went on, Session after Session, without doing any thing that was to set the question definitively at rest. Government ought to make such a declaration as both blacks and whites should understand; and then there might be some probability of their living in amity with each other.

Mr. Peel observed, that it was very easy to accuse the Government of a want of resolution; but he wished to know from what quarter but from the Government any definite plan had originated? The Honourable Member for Taunton said, that Ministers did not state their whole intentions at once. Government gave no such pledge, because such a pledge would be in opposition to all reasonable policy. Was it fit that it should preclude itself, because it made slight alterations in a system at present, from making farther alterations, and greater ones, when there were the means of doing so without danger? From the speech of the Honourable Member, he was warranted in declaring that the course pointed out was the only practical one that could be pursued.

Dr. Lushington made various remarks. Alluding to the discontents in the West Indies, he asked, could any Member, whatever his opinion upon the general question, believe it was possible for the speeches of the Honourable Member for Bramber to produce one half the ill-feeling and hot blood which was generated by the speeches of the Colonial Assemblies? Could those who promised men liberty do so much to excite their discontent, as those who branded them with the assurance of perpetual wretchedness and slavery? *(Hear, hear!)* The language which had gone forth from Colonial Assemblies would bring destruction, if it was continued, upon themselves. Let them not say, when the blow fell, that the blame was owing to the speeches in the English Parliament.

Mr. Watson Taylor defended the conduct of the West Indian proprietors, and expressed his approbation of the proposed measures of Government.

Mr. Manning justified the general treatment and condition of the Negroes, and defended the Colonial Assemblies.

Mr. Evans regretted that the proposed measures were not of a wider extent.

Sir G. Rose advocated the propriety of extending religious instruction among the Negroes, from which, he said, great benefit had already ensued.

Mr. W. Smith had no doubt the state of the slaves was considerably improved; but he was old enough to recollect that there was not an Admiral or General who spoke on the subject about the year 1794, that did not represent the slaves to be in a most happy situation; yet in answer to the complaints now made, it was said, "Ay, what you state might have been the situation of the slaves 30 years ago, but that is not the case now." There was this great difference between those who thought as he did on the subject of slavery and the West India proprietors. He would say, that all the steps now taken must be with a view to emancipation as the ultimate result; but they said, "No; we will take these steps that you now recommend, but as to abolishing slavery, we will do no such thing." But it was the solemn, the bounden duty of this country, to see that done.

Sir R. Wilson wished to ask if, by the order which limited the number of lashes to 25, it was meant that the proprietor was not to be allowed to

inflict a further lashing for the same offence, after the back of the slave should be healed?

Mr. T. Wilson thought the measures proposed by his Majesty's Ministers for proceeding gradually, were the best that could be devised to meet all the difficulties.

Mr. CANNING, in reply to the question of the Hon. Member for Southwark, said, that the construction which he had put on the order was, that 25 lashes only could be inflicted at any one time.—After noticing with some sharpness Mr. Baring's observations, which he deemed contradictory and obscure, Mr. C. remarked upon the assertion that the West India proprietors had a right to complain of the state of incertitude in which they were kept. He had no hesitation, he said, in declaring that what he meant to do was this—first, what was now before the House, which he thought would be an effectual measure. He was aware that the West India proprietors would wish to extort from the Government a declaration that they never would do anything more; but he could give no such pledge. He looked for nothing but practical benefits, proceeding with this difficult question on the principles of equity and humanity; but he could give no pledge that would fetter his future course of action, and would not be taunted into any extreme measure. For if ever there was a question in which it was the duty of Parliament to watch the progress of measures, doubting even on first principles, it was on the present occasion, when they were called upon—not to make a trifling alteration, but a total change in the condition of a large portion of the human race, and to recast an existing generation. It was their duty to march, not with irresolution, but with caution and prudence, and a vigilant attention to the signs of the times.

The question was then put, and leave to bring in the bill granted.—Adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

Wednesday, March 11.

A number of petitions against Slavery were presented, and others against the Leather Tax, the Combination Laws, and against throwing open the Silk Trade.

Mr. HUME introduced a petition from Lieutenant Perrott, praying that he might be restored to the naval service, from which he had been dismissed. Some discussion arose; and several Admiralty Members declaring that he had been properly dismissed for a fraudulent attempt, the petition was withdrawn.

NOVEL PETITION FOR REFORM!

Mr. HOBHOUSE presented a petition for Reform of rather a novel description. It was from one of his constituents, Mr. Wirgman, jeweller, of the Strand, who proposed, among other things, that patronage and influence should be exercised without disguise; that the present borough-holders should at once nominate their Representatives; that the land-holders should send in Members without the intervention of voters; that the purchase and sale, by auction, of a certain number of seats, should be declared legal, &c. &c.—Cries of *hear!* and *laughter* took place during Mr. Hobhouse's notice of this petition, with the prayer of which, he said, he could not agree, though he thought that some of the practices, "which were notorious as the sun at noon-day," might be as well made legal at once.—The Petition was ordered to be printed.

EMBROIDERY—OFFICIAL SMUGGLERS.

Mr. HOBHOUSE presented a Petition from the Gold and Silver Refiners and Lacemen of Westminster, complaining of the surreptitious introduction of embroidery and other articles of their trade from the Continent.—The petitioners alleged, *that persons in the King's Government were in the habit of smuggling these articles*, and that the whole practice was so great that they had nearly lost all their trade. He had been told by some eminent tradesmen, that where they formerly kept 40 looms, they now had only one, in consequence of the surreptitious trade. The Petitioners stated, that articles of embroidery had been smuggled by King's messengers, and *under the seals of office!* and they prayed generally for protection.—Ordered to lie on the table.

STOCK-PURSE OF THE GUARDS.

Mr. HUME made a motion for the papers respecting the use made by the Guards of the Stock-purse, its formation, &c.

Lord PALMERSTON explained, that the Stock-purse was applied in different ways in the several regiments, but in no case was it divided among the Officers, as had been reported. He moved an amendment, which was carried, calling for certain papers on the subject.

Thursday, March 18.

Various petitions were presented, and received, against Slavery, the Leather Tax, the Assessed Taxes, the Linen-Trade Regulations, and the proposed alteration in the Silk Trade. On the latter subject a conversation arose, as the London Silk Committee petitioned to be heard by Counsel against the new measures. After some discussion, their prayer was granted; but both the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER and Mr. HUSKISSON expressly declared, that there was not the smallest probability that the opinion of Government would undergo the slightest change.

IMPRESSMENT.

Mr. HUME presented a petition from Mr. George Butter, praying that the House would take the important subject of Impressment into consideration. The petitioner attributed the evils complained of in the naval system to four causes,—the unlimited time of service—the capricious discipline respecting punishments—the power entrusted to mere boys, acting as midshipmen and mates—and the lowness of wages and unequal distribution of prize-money.—The petition was ordered to be printed, and Mr. Hume gave notice of a motion on the subject.

FRENCH OCCUPATION OF SPAIN.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL brought forward his motion respecting the occupation of Spain, which he introduced with various observations upon the injurious policy of the British Government, the hatred of liberty exhibited by the Continental Sovereigns, and the scandalous want of faith shown by the French Government in the transactions respecting Spain, a country which had been abandoned to the fury of a despotic aristocracy, and the vindictive spirit of ignorance and superstition. His Lordship contended that it had always been the object of this country to prevent the ascendancy of France in Spain,—an object for which so much blood and treasure had recently been expended;—and he called upon the House to aid in thwarting the atrocious policy of the Holy Allies,—those Conspirators against the moral dignity of human nature, whose manifest object was to subdue in man all that connected him with a superior state of being, and to degrade him to a level with the brute creation. The Noble Lord concluded by moving, "That an humble address be presented to his Majesty, praying that he will be graciously pleased to give directions that there be laid upon the table of that House copies of any communications which he may have received from Foreign Powers respecting the evacuation of Spain by French troops." *(Hear!)*

Sir R. WILSON seconded the motion. In the course of his remarks, he observed, that though the defence of Spain was not the ablest that might have been made, yet, considering the threats of the Holy Alliance—considering the poverty of the nation—considering also our breach of neutrality, he knew of no other people who would have resisted so manfully as the people of Spain had done.—Cadiz, he said, at the time of its surrender, had only 9,700 men, without stores, with only 15 dollars to pay the army, and but five pieces of cannon fit for service.—He noticed the dishonourable conduct of the Duke d'Angouleme, in giving the virtuous and patriotic Riego into the hands of his murderers,—a transaction which would be viewed by posterity with loathing and execration. Sir Robert then animadverted on the malignant slanders to which he had been exposed, and the treatment he had received from the Continental Sovereigns, who had withdrawn the marks of honour they had conferred upon him for brilliant and perilous military services; one of which was, his rescuing the Austrian Emperor himself, when surrounded by two French divisions. For this exploit, a medal and the order of Maria Theresa were bestowed upon him by the Emperor, as express marks of "his approbation and *lasting gratitude*." *(Hear, hear!)* And subsequently, this worthy member of the Holy Alliance sent Sir Robert another order, with a message expressive of his "eternal gratitude!" His acts were before the public, and he appealed to the world, whether the Allied Sovereigns, in tearing the insignia from his breast, had been able to stamp shame upon his brow? *(Hear!)*

Mr. LITTLETON complimented Sir Robert Wilson, assuring him that he viewed him in no other light than as the brightest modern example of chivalric courage and generosity. *(Hear, hear!)* The Honourable Member, however, did not coincide with Lord John Russell in his view of the conduct of Government, and he therefore moved, as an amendment to his motion, "That this House, being satisfied of the firmness and sound policy which has guided his Majesty's Councils in respect to the late hostilities between France and Spain, and considering the several conditions by which the declaration of England's neutrality in the contest was qualified, sees nothing in the present circumstances which calls upon it to express any apprehension of a permanent military occupation of Spain by the arms of France." *(Cheers.)*

Mr. GOOCH paid a tribute to the spirit and patriotism of Sir R. Wilson; but decidedly supported the amended.

Mr. CANNING, after alluding to the failure of Lord Nugent's late motion respecting Spain, and uttering various jokes on that gallant Nobleman's most honourable exertions in the Spanish cause, went on to observe, that at the outset of the quarrel between France and Spain, this country had qualified her neutrality by three specific conditions. The first was, that Portugal should not be attacked. The second, that there should be no interference with South America. The third, that there should be no permanent occupation of Spain. France, he said, had performed two of these conditions, and he had no right to doubt that she would perform the third. For himself, he declared, as a minister and an individual, that he believed France was as anxious to put an end to the occupation as the Noble Lord, or his friends could be. But it was asked, how long was France to remain in possession of Spain?—was she to hold the country until Ferdinand VII. gave free institutions to his subjects? In one sense he should say, he believed, "Would to God that she were;" and in another, that he hoped to God that she was not. Would to God that she were, because she would, as institutions stood, prevent much ill. Heaven forbid she should, because, he feared, she would have to remain for ever. *(Hear!)* One thing, however, it was only candid towards France to avow, he did believe that whatever absence there was of horror and excess in Spain, was owing to French interference, and to the presence of the French army. He desired not to be misunderstood. Heaven forbid he should say—that this fact redeemed France from the original sin of her invasion. He did not defend the act; he was against it upon every principle; and would resist it if it were to do again (*much cheering*,) at any hazard short of going to war. Alluding to the imputed designs upon Spanish America, Mr. C. said, that nothing in the French conduct led him to suppose that France meant to aid in the invasion of the Colonies; and with regard to the present occupation of the Peninsula, he declared it was a vain dread that any European power could be put in danger by

such proceeding. He concluded, by hoping that the House would do the Government the justice to say openly to the country, that as they had nothing to allege against their past conduct, so they still held undiminished confidence in them as to the future. (*Loud and long continued cheers.*)

Sir JAMES MACINTOSH maintained that the motion was most constitutional and salutary, as the wisest and most considerate British Statesman had always doubted the sincerity of France, who had never been trusted but in the ignoble reign of the Stuarts. The Right Hon. Secretary was of opinion that France was solicitous to evacuate Spain, but he must perform a miracle in the art of persuasion to induce them to believe that she would ever willingly give up an ascendancy for which she had always struggled. What, if Spain was enabled to send troops to South America merely because France was in occupation? What, if at the same juncture of time that Spain was overrun by French troops, the Spanish Government should be found issuing proclamations, on which the claim of sovereignty was set up again with threats of its exercise against those found in rebellion? Must it not then be concluded, that the presence of the French army alone enabled Spain to send out forces against South America—must they not consider that as the same thing with sending out French troops to South America? Was not this a case really existing, and was not the object of his Noble Friend, in wishing to know what steps had been taken by the Government to avert that danger, a proper one?

The amendment was carried without a division.

Mr. PEEL moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider of the laws relating to prisons.—Agreed to.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Mr. BANKES moved for accounts of the expenses incurred in building the new courts in Westminster.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER wished the Hon. Gentleman to delay his motion.

Mr. BANKES said that the works were going on in a wretchedly ill taste, and so rapidly, that his motion would be useless if delayed.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, the completion of the new building was desirable; but he would have no objection to suspend the work for two or three days if that would meet the Hon. Gentleman's views.

After some discussion, Mr. Bankes's motion was fixed for Tuesday next.

Friday, March 19.

A great many petitions were presented, praying for the gradual abolition of negro slavery in our colonies.

Much conversation arose respecting the Silk trade; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was asked how much the drawbacks on manufactured goods were likely to cost the nation. He answered, about 250,000*l.* or at the utmost 300,000*l.*

The Irish Miscellaneous Estimates were voted. Mr. Hume opposed several grants, particularly 10,000*l.* for widening the streets of Dublin, which he thought it unjustifiable to make the nation at large pay; and *Six thousand five hundred pounds* to pay for advertising proclamations in Irish papers, which (the Hon. Member stated) was chiefly used as a means of bribing the press in Ireland.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTES.

Tuesday, March 16.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

T. Freethy, Acton, Middlesex, carpenter.

BANKRUPTS.

T. Boswell, Surrey-street, Strand, tailor. Solicitor, Mr. Richardson, Walbrook.

J. Underwood, Bloxwich, Staffordshire, maltster. Solicitors, Messrs. Willis and Co. Tokenhouse-yard.

W. C. Corrie, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, dealers in lace. Solicitors, Messrs. Bridges and Quilter, Red Lion-square.

J. Keele, Waterloo-road, Surrey, stationer. Solicitors, Messrs. Oriel and Leader, Wormwood-street.

Saturday, March 20.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

W. Paull, Bolehall, Tamworth, Warwick, tanner.

BANKRUPTS.

G. Hassell, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, horse-dealer. Solicitor, Mr. Black, Clifford's-inn.

T. Brettell, Summerhill, Staffordshire, scrivener. Solicitor, Mr. Rogers, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

P. and W. Mackenzie, Sheffield, upholsterers. Solicitor, Mr. Rogers, No. 3, Canterbury-square, Southwark.

W. Jefferys, Quadrant, Regent-street, painter. Solicitor, Mr. Price, Lincoln's-inn-new-square.

G. Evans, Hastings, jeweller. Solicitor, Mr. Courteen, Size-lane.

J. Jay, Regent-street, Middlesex, linen-draper. Solicitors, Messrs. Walker, Rankins, and Richards, Basinghall-street.

W. Stewart, Mitre-court, Cheapside, merchant. Solicitor, Mr. Robinson, Carey-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

P. Moon, Mirfield, Yorkshire, woollen-cloth-merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Vassandas and Tindale, Dowgate-hill.

R. F. Webb, Wapping-street, grocer. Solicitor, Mr. Pringle, Queen-street, Cheapside.

THE FUNDS.—There has been but little fluctuation in either the Home or the Foreign market this week. All speculation seems engrossed by the New Insurance Company Shares; but the reported arrival of M. Hurtada, the Colombian Agent, at Falmouth, has created some sensation among the holders of that Stock, which is likely more or less to affect the prices. Latest quotations:—

Consols, 93¼	New Four per Cents. 106¾ ⅞
Reduced, —	Consols for Account, 94¼

FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Austrian Scrip, 12½ ¼ ⅜ pm.	Prussian of 1818, 98½
Chilian, 81½ ⅝ 2 1½ 1	Do. 1822, 97
Colombian, 60 ½ 8 7½ 6½ 5¾ 6	Portuguese, 91½ ¼
Danish, 99	Russian of 1822, 94½ ⅞
French Rentes, 101	Spanish of 1821, 20¾ 1¼ 20¾ 1 20⅝ ½ ¼
Neapolitan, 89½ ¼ 90	Do. 1823, 18 17¼
Mexican Scrip, 7⅛ ⅜ 6 ⅝ 6 ⅛ pm.	Greek Loan, 1⅝ ⅞ pm.

Alliance Insurance Company's Shares, 18¼ 19¾ 20 19 19¾ 20

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Various Pieces in Verse and Prose have come to hand:—those designed for insertion will appear in a week or two.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MARCH 21.

IT is asserted in private letters from Madrid, that FERDINAND has lately relaxed in his rigours towards the Constitutionalists, impelled by French remonstrance, seconded by the recommendation of Sir WILLIAM A'COURT. No amnesty, however, appears to be forthcoming; while, on the other hand, in contradiction to this alleged incipient liberality, the most absurd decrees continue to be issued by that burlesque upon kingship, FERDINAND. One of these recals all the diplomas or decrees of any kind conferred upon physicians, lawyers, and men of science, during the government of the Cortes, in order to be re-examined and receive new diplomas. Those who do not conform to these orders are to be fined and banished ten leagues from their present residence, and if they persist, to be sent to the gallies. "The severity of these measures," says the servile writer of the information, "is justified by the improper conduct of many physicians, lawyers, or men of science, during the Constitutional Regime. Besides, in Spain in particular, village physicians, doctors, and the language masters, enjoying pretty considerable influence, can never give too strong a pledge of fidelity to the Government. It is important that they should not corrupt the public mind."—The real state of the case is, that nearly all the professional and well-educated part of the Spanish public have been friendly to the Constitution. In the mean time, the French special Minister, MARCELLUS, has returned to France, and gives the most deplorable account of the wretchedness of the whole country; and notwithstanding the representations of Mr. CANNING in Parliament, everything appears to denote a long military possession of Spain on the part of France. The wit of the Foreign Secretary certainly ambles with great felicity in the very partial field in which it is exercised; but, as Sir JAMES MACINTOSH justly observes, he must be the most persuasive of politicians, if he can induce the reasoning part of the community *out of doors* to believe that a long possession of Spain will be turned to no national and exclusive account by her invaders.

The most recent intelligence from Peru is comparatively satisfactory. General BOLIVAR has succeeded in putting down the intestine division, which led to the late disaster, and did so much to aid the royalists. It is asserted, upon repectable authority, that the Columbians are planning an expedition against Cuba, on the conviction that the Constitutional party, which is very strong there, will favour the expedition. This news wants confirmation, but it is by no means unlikely.

Portugal, according to all accounts, is in a very disturbed state; and a most shocking murder has been committed on one of the King's Chamberlains, which has produced some extraordinary insinuations against the Queen and Prince MIGUEL; indeed, the latter is all but accused of it. The

King of Portugal, as a well-meaning man, is acquitted of all blame, and his domestic anxieties even excite commiseration.

By letters from the city of Mexico to the 24th January, received yesterday, it appears there had been, within the two or three days preceding that date, an ebullition of the popular feeling against the Old Spaniards.—One of the Generals in the Mexican service had sent a message to the Congress, to say, that unless the law, ordering the expulsion of the Old Spaniards, was immediately carried into effect, the troops would not continue their allegiance to the Government. After some little communication between them, an assurance was given, that the law would be enforced, and a Proclamation was issued, peremptorily calling on all Spaniards to make preparation for quitting the country. Order was restored, and every thing quiet. The above account was brought from Mexico, by the *Thetis* frigate, in which Mr. Ward has returned. It is said that he brings the most favourable account as to the objects of his mission.

One of the pleasantest Parliamentary incidents of the Session, was the petition presented by Mr. Hobhouse on Thursday from Mr. Wirgman of the Strand, in which the Honourable House was bantered in capital style. The Petitioner prayed for the abolition of all the immoral and corrupt machinery of borough elections; that the landholders should send to Parliament, in a direct and simple manner, the Members they now send by disgraceful and fraudulent means; and that a certain number of seats should be sold by *auction* —to accommodate the other interests, of course. We wish the people would petition generally to have the state of the "Representation" put upon this honest and intelligent footing.

FINANCE SYSTEM—SINKING FUND.

[The following PETITION was presented by Mr. Hobhouse on Friday the 12th inst. and its substance stated in our last week's Parliamentary Report; but it is so excellent an one, and takes so important a view of a subject too little attended to by this over-taxed nation, that we are induced to publish it entire, feeling that no abridgment could do it justice.]

"*To the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.—The Petition of the Undersigned Inhabitants of the City and Liberty of Westminster—*

"Sheweth, That your Petitioners have seen a statement, which they have been informed and believe was laid before your Honourable House on the 12th day of February, 1824, as follows, *viz:*—

'Total net income and expenditure of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the year ending the 5th Jan. 1824.

Income paid into the Exchequer.....	£57,672,999	8	4½
Expenditure	50,962,014	17	11¼
Leaving a surplus paid into the Exchequer over and above expenditure of.....	6,710,984	10	5¼'

"Whence it appears that the people have been taxed to the amount of nearly seven millions sterling more than was necessary to meet the current, and as they are convinced wasteful, expenditure of the year 1823.

"Your Petitioners have also heard and believe that five millions of the surplus, thus raised by taxes and imposts upon the people, is intended to be paid in discharge of the public debt, to which your Petitioners beg leave to object, believing as they do, that if the money were left in the pockets of the people, instead of being taken out by the tax-gatherers, it would be more usefully and productively employed than in paying off debt. That paying off debt, contracted in large masses, by driblets, is merely making a show to no beneficial purpose, while the people are compelled to pay the same amount of taxes whether small portions of the debt be paid or not.

"That although 5,000,000*l.* is a small sum in comparison with the debt, it is nevertheless a large sum for the people to pay in annual and unnecessary taxation.

"Your Petitioners have seen statements, which induce them to believe that the expence of governing Ireland costs about *four millions* sterling more than the whole revenue of Ireland produces, and consequently that the people of Great Britain are taxed in that sum on account of Ireland.—Your Petitioners beg to call the attention of your Honourable House to this subject, since they cannot understand why Ireland should not raise a revenue equal to the expense it occasions.—Your Petitioners complain,

"1. That taxes are extorted from the people of Great Britain, not for the good government of Ireland, since that country appears to them to be worse governed than any other country on the face of the earth.

"2. That these taxes are not applied to benefit the people of that most unfortunate country, since they are ill used and wretched beyond the power of description.

"3. That the sum extorted, by means of taxation, from the people of Great Britain, on account of Ireland, neither produces good government, nor benefits its wretched people, but is wastefully expended in Places, Pensions, Patronage, and Jobs.

"4. That your Petitioners feel it to be a great, a singular, and unparalleled grievance, that, in addition to their other heavy burdens, four millions sterling should be extorted from the industrious and sober people of Great Britain, for the advantage of an idle and dissolute Irish Gentry.

"Your Petitioners therefore pray, That your Honourable House will take the allegations contained in this Petition into your most serious consideration, and will be pleased to remit taxes equal in amount to the surplus of revenue above expenditure; and further, that your Honourable House will also be pleased to remit taxes from those levied on the people of Great Britain, equal in amount to the sum paid by Great Britain on account of Ireland, over and above the amount of revenue raised in Ireland."

NEWSPAPER CHAT.

The two newly elected Irish barristers, Mr. North and Mr. Doherty, enter Parliament by the patronage of Mr. Canning.—*Cork Southern Reporter.*—Mr. Doherty we believe is related to Mr. Canning.

Mr. Angerstein has purchased an elegant house in St. James's-square, the residence of the late Earl St. Germans; for which we hear he has paid 20,000*l.*

OPIUM-EATING.—This practice does not appear to be so general with the Turks as is commonly believed. But there is a set of people at Constantinople devoted to this drug: the Theriakis, as they are called, have that hollow and livid aspect, the fixed dulness of the eye at one time, and the unnatural brightness at another, which tell too plainly of this destructive habit. They seldom live beyond 30; lose all appetite for food; and as their strength decreases, the craving for opium increases. It is useless to warn a Theriaki, that he is hurrying to the grave. He comes in the morning to a large coffee-room, a well-known resort for this purpose. Having swallowed his pill, he seats himself in the portico in front, which is shaded by trees. He has no wish to change his position, for motion would disturb his happiness, which he tells you is indescribable. He gazes on the river beneath, covered with the sails of every nation; and on the majestic shores of Asia opposite. There, till sunset, the Theriaki revels in love, in splendour, or in pride. He sees the beauties of Circassia striving whose charms shall most delight him; the Ottoman fleet sails beneath his flag as Capitan Pacha; or seated in the Divan, voices hail, and turbaned heads are bowed before him. But evening comes, and he awakes to a sense of wretchedness and helplessness, to a gnawing hunger which is the effect of his vice; and he hurries home, to suffer, till the morning sun reveals to him his paradise.—*New Monthly Magazine:* art. "Constantinple."

HOLY ALLIANCE REGIMEN.—We need not observe, that the system of mutual instruction is a very terrific affair in the eyes of the Catholic despots and restorers of priestcraft, who in fact fear everything which advances a mutual understanding and common-sense among the people at large. "Shortly after the fall of the Neapolitan Constitution," says a note in the *London Magazine*, "and while the affairs of the police were in the hands of that wiseacre Signor ———, a poor man, who had established a school on this system, in Strada Santa Brigida, was visited one morning by some *Sbirri*, and some Austrian soldiers, who conducted him to the presence of the dreaded Minister: 'Ah! how is this,' said Signor ———, 'you make use of signs in your school—signs—wicked—forbidden!' The affrighted pedagogue explained the use of those signs; that they were children who used them; that his school doors were open, &c. 'It won't do—it won't do,' cried Signor ———, 'Carbonari make use of signs—masons make use of signs—signs are prohibited by his Majesty's decree.' The school was put down, and the master was glad to get off so cheaply."

ABSURD NOTIONS UNIVERSAL.—The ingenious author of the "Plurality of Worlds" ridicules the Chinese, because, says he, they see a thousand stars fall at once into the sea. It is very likely that the emperor Kam-hi ridiculed this notion as much as Fontenelle. Some Chinese almanac-maker had, it should seem, been good-natured enough to speak of these meteors after the manner of the people, and to take them for stars. Every country has its foolish notions. All the nations of antiquity made the sun lie down in the sea, where we for a long time sent the stars. We have believed that the clouds touched the firmament, that the firmament was a hard substance, and that it supported a reservoir of water. It has not long been known in our towns, that the Virgin-thread (*fil de la vierge*) so often found in the country, is nothing more than the thread spun by a spider. Let us not laugh at any people. Let us reflect that the Chinese had astrolabes and spheres before we could read, and that if they have made no great progress in astronomy, it is through that same respect for the ancients which we have had for Aristotle.—*Voltaire —Philosophical Dictionary*, New Translation, Vol. I.

A PERSIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—A few days ago, Jaffier Kooli Khan invited the Governor-General's wife to dinner, and I was of the party. He showed us the attention of providing plates, knives, and forks, with which he dispensed himself, eating according to the Persian custom. A flat cake of bread, as large as the table upon which it was laid, served for the table-cloth and napkins. The Khan made use of a smaller cake

of the same description, for the purposes of plate and napkin. We were first helped to sweetmeats, and then to the Persian soup *bosbach*. I was curious to see how the Khan might manage his soup, and would have wagered that he could not have gotten through it; but I was mistaken. His bread-plate answered as a spoon; he dropped a piece of it into the bowl before him, took it out with his fingers, and swallowed it; he had even finished his portion before us, who had plates and spoons. This mode of eating appeared to me still less inviting, as the Persian gentry have their hands dyed yellow as saffron, and their nails of a deep red. After the soup, we had other dishes sweetened with a great deal of sugar; these were followed by ragouts, highly seasoned with pepper and saffron: then appeared at least six different kinds of pilaw, the favourite dish of the Asiatics, and the only one, in my opinion, that is eatable. One of these pilaws was, to my taste, delicious: they were all of different colours; some were made with mutton and chicken, some with chesnuts, others with meat roasted on a wooden spit. To form a just idea of the Persian method of eating, you ought to see one of them helping himself to a dish of pilaw. The Persian plunges his fingers into the mess, stirs it about, squeezes it within his hand, which having filled he conveys to his mouth, and swallows the contents. Not knowing how to use either a knife or fork, he wipes his disgustingly greasy hand upon his napkin—that is to say, upon the bread which covers his table, and finishes the meal by eating his napkin. While at dinner, the Khan made use of his right hand only, the left always resting on his girdle, according to the fashion of the country. After dinner a *kalcoore* was brought in; this was first smoked by the Khan, and then given by him, with the same tube, to the person he wished to distinguish. The Persians have another strange mode of doing honour to their guests. They will sometimes take a dainty bit, invariably a greasy morsel, and hold it for some time, kneading it, as it were, in the hand, after which they put it into the mouth of the person who may be the object of their peculiar regard.—*Letters from Caucasus.*

Otway.—It is the common belief, that Otway, the dramatic writer, was choked by a morsel of roll, which he was eagerly eating after having long suffered from extreme hunger. This, however, is not the fact. He fell a victim to the warmth of his friendship. An intimate of his, a Mr. Blakiston, was murdered in the street; to revenge the deed, Otway pursued the assassin, who fled to France. Otway followed him on foot as far as Dover, where he was seized with a fever, occasioned by the fatigues he had undergone. On his arrival in London, in this state, he imprudently drank water, which accelerated his end, the 14th of April, 1685. He expired at an obscure public-house, the sign of the Bull, on Tower-hill, at the early age of 34.—*The Magnet.*

Triumphs of Art and Science.—At the Annual Meeting (held a few weeks ago) of the proprietors of the Royal Institution of Liverpool, the President, Mr. Heywood, in the course of a very able address on the progress of the arts and sciences, illustrated it by some very remarkable facts. The thread, he observed, which, at no very remote period, required to be spun by one man and one machine, was now multiplied *a hundred fold* by *the very same force*; and there were *single* factories, worked by the steam-engine, producing, in one day, a length of thread which *would twice encircle the globe.* The art of weaving bore in its improvement close affinity to that of spinning. Within the walls of a factory, power-looms, requiring little manual labour, were capable of delivering, in each minute, a piece of cloth twenty-eight yards long, and in each day a length of cloth exceeding fifteen miles. An American artist had lately invented a machine, which, when completed, would produce sixty pins in a minute. It was curious that this manufacture should have been selected by Adam Smith as an instance of the benefit to be derived from the division of labour among many hands, when its object might now be attained almost without *the labour of any.*—The steam-engine had, in short, effected a change in the state of England, which was without a parallel in the records of either ancient or modern times. It had added the power of full two millions of men to our population. It had multiplied time itself, for it required *no rest*, and when the sun went down, its place could be supplied by the introduction of gas-light. But what was even the steam engine, considered as a monument of human ingenuity, to the calculating machine of Mr. Bubbage?—[In the construction of which, a Member of the Committee of the London Mechanics' Institution (Mr. Le Gros) has the honour to be the person principally employed. Government has, on the Report of a Select Committee of the Royal Society, made a grant to Mr. B. of 1500*l.* to enable him to proceed in his singularly ingenious experiments.]—It promised to perform labour which had been hitherto deemed exclusively intellectual—to calculate mathematical and astronomical tables!!! The parts which performed the calculations had the disposal of no less than 30,000 numerals; and yet so perfect was the system of their combination, that should any accident create a momentary error, the immediate correction of the error was unavoidable. The power thus given to mere matter struck the mind as incredible. Who could once have expected to find, that the work of man's hands absolutely produces a degree of mathematical correctness, which the best exertions of his intellect have hitherto failed to obtain!—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

Gainsborough.—There resided in the same neighbourhood with Gainsborough's father, a very respectable clergyman of the name of Coyte. With the sons of this gentleman young Gainsborough and his brothers passed much of their time; and from the instructions of the old gentleman reaped some advantage. The parson's garden having been plundered of a great quantity of wall-fruit, much pains were taken, but without effect, to discover the thief. Young Gainsborough having one summer morning risen at an early hour and walked into the garden, to make a sketch from an old elm, seated himself in an obscure corner, and had just taken out his chalk to begin, when he observed a fellow's head peeping over the wall of the garden, which was next the road, with apparent intention of seeing if the coast was clear. He made a sketch upon a rough board, of the head of the man; and so accurate was the resemblance, that he was instantly known to be a man from a neighbouring village, and upon a close enquiry, proved to be the fellow who had before robbed the garden.—*Literary Museum.*

ON READING "ST. RONAN'S WELL,"

A NOVEL, BY THE AUTHOR OF WAVERLEY.

(From the Waterford Mirror.)

Sir Walter, Sir Walter,
You falter, you falter,
Be wise, and secure your retreat;
This Well of St. Ronan
Will satisfy no one;
In short, its a scandalous cheat.

Such talkee and talkee,
And baulkee and baulkee,
In a chapter you'll scarce find *one fact;*
Then its all so hotch-potchy,
And cursedly *Scotchy*,
Why, man, you have lost all your *tact!*

Cash is sweeter than honey,
And Constable's money
Seems to ooze out for all those who need it;
While him you can squeeze,
Scribble trash at your ease;
But beware! lest the public *won't read it.*

LAW.

LENT ASSIZES.

Lincoln, March 12.—Murder.—*John Smith*, a farmer's servant, aged 24, was indicted for the murder of Sarah Arrowsmith, by giving her flour in which he had mixed arsenic. It appeared, that on the 8th of December the prisoner called her up, and gave her a bag containing some flour; that on the following day she made it into cakes; when, feeling it crunch in her hands, she tasted it, and found it hot in the throat; that she afterwards baked the cakes, ate some herself, and gave some to her child (the son of the prisoner) and other persons; that she was pregnant by the prisoner a second time, and was about being married to him. All who partook of the cakes became extremely ill, but, with medical aid, they recovered, except Sarah Arrowsmith, who next day miscarried, and died shortly after, hoping that Smith would not be punished!—The prisoner told a story about having bought arsenic to poison rats, which he had placed on a shelf; but it was not worthy credit. Two farmers for whom he had worked gave him an excellent character for mildness, industry, and sobriety! He was found *Guilty*, and ordered for execution.—[On Monday, *Smith* was executed at Lincoln Castle. The culprit on Sunday last admitted his guilt, and described the mode in which he committed the offence. His ignorance was so great, that he appeared not to have an idea beyond the common labour of the field, and of eating, drinking, and sleeping. There was an extraordinary apathy about him to the moment of his exit.]

Stafford, March 13.—Poaching.—*Thomas Davis* was indicted for shooting at Samuel Bott, gamekeeper to Lord Middleton, in the night of Jan. 17.—It appeared, that Bott and another, on an alarm being given that some persons were shooting in Trickey Coppice, went thither, when seeing two men running away, they pursued them. In the race, Davis turned round, and fired his gun at them. The shot struck them both, but hit Bott in his face, breast, and shoulders, and he fell on one knee. He got up, however, ran upon Davis, struck him with a stick, tripped him up, and fell upon him. His companion now came up and secured the prisoner, who had a pheasant in his pocket.—The prisoner denied the charge altogether. Three respectable witnesses gave him an excellent character for honesty and good temper, and stated that he was at the time of the alleged offence gamekeeper to Admiral Manley.—Verdict, *Guilty.*

Lancaster, March 13.—Breach of Promise of Marriage—Rose v. Ollier.—The plaintiff, Miss Sarah Rose, was a young lady about 22 years of age, the daughter of a retired tradesman, living near Manchester. Mr. Ollier, the defendant, was the son of a surgeon at Manchester; he was about 30 years old, was concerned in a tanning business, and held also an appointment in the Stamp-office at Manchester, which brought him 350*l.* a year. The families had been intimate, and an attachment was formed between the parties, which was sanctioned by the family of Miss Rose, but which Mr. Ollier's father objected to. He, however, when told of this objection, maintained that he was old enough to chuse for himself, continued his addresses, sent her amatory verses, fixed the day of marriage, and took a house, in which they were to live. When however the time he had named arrived, he let it pass unnoticed, and at length greatly relaxed in his assiduities. Miss Rose's godfather (her father was in years) asked him the reason of this. Mr. Ollier made excuses—said his father did not approve the match, but added that he was

not likely to live long, and that his love for Miss Rose was unabated. The excuse seemed reasonable; but still he did not renew his attentions; and his father dying soon after, the young lady's friend again called upon him for an explanation, when he excused himself, on the ground of the recent death of his parent. After some time had elapsed, Mr. Holland, a cousin of Miss Rose, paid him a visit, in order to bring the matter to a conclusion. Mr. Ollier objected to such an interference. Mr. Holland contended that he ought not to trifle in this way with a lady's feelings, and at once asked him whether he intended to fulfil his engagement with Miss Rose? To this Mr. Ollier answered, "No, Sir; I do not." Mr. Holland then exclaimed, "You are a scoundrel!" and quitted him. This treatment had occasioned much disquietude to the plaintiff—her health was injured, and she was greatly dejected in spirits; and though (as her Counsel, Mr. SCARLETT, intimated) she had no desire to benefit one farthing by the verdict of the Jury, he called upon them to mark their sense of the misconduct of a defendant, who had thus wantonly injured an honourable, virtuous, and beautiful young lady, by treating her as if she was a person with whom it would be dangerous for a man of honour to form a connection.—This case being proved by evidence, Mr. ALDERSON, for the defendant, palliated his conduct, on the ground that he was not in a situation to maintain a family, without descending from the condition he held in society.—Verdict for the plaintiff—damages, 400*l*.

WINCHESTER, MARCH 13.—BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE—SAVAGE *v.* GODFREY AND WIFE.—The plaintiff is a hair-dresser at Romsey. For ten long years he had, apparently with success, made strong love to Miss Mary Ann Fryer (now Mrs. Godfrey) who had repeatedly promised to bless him with her person in holy marriage, as soon as a Mrs. Jones, her aunt, who did not approve the match, should have "shuffled off this mortal coil," and gone to that comfortable place where hair-dressing amatory suitors no longer torment discreet aunts. Well, at Christmas, 1822, Mrs. Jones took her flight from this "vale of tears," leaving Mr. Godfrey, the son of a tallow-chandler, her executor, and bequeathing to Miss Mary Ann Fryer (now in her 40th year) several thousand pounds of sterling coin. Even at this time, Miss Mary Ann expressed her undiminished affection for her constant hair-cutter; but in six short months she occasioned every hair on his devoted head to erect itself in stiff horror, by giving her coveted person and property to the more insinuating Executor; and thus, in becoming Mrs. Godfrey instead of Mrs. Savage, she not only inflicted on the plaintiff "the pangs of despised love," but divers other pangs also,—namely, those which the loss of some thousand pounds is too apt to excite in bosoms not solely and entirely devoted to the blind God.—Thus foiled, fooled, and dismissed, Mr. Savage sought consolation for his manifest and multifarious wrongs in the verdict of a Jury; who, sympathising with the sorrows of the hapless hair-dresser, or indignant at the want of faith and piety evinced by the perjured Mary Ann—(for it seems she had broken a solemn vow, sanctified by a kiss on the Bible, that she vowed at one of their secret meetings in a retired cow-house which used to take place during the life of Aunt Jones)—in a few minutes brought in a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, 400*l*.—thus at the same time reading, as the Duke of Wellington would say, "a great moral lesson" to all aspiring tallow-chandlers and their jilting spouses!

MAIDSTONE, MARCH 19.—MURDER.—*James Clover* and *Stephen Shelvy* were charged with the murder of Elizabeth Marsh, at Shoulden, on the 25th of January. The deceased, a widow, 84 years of age, lived in a retired cottage, and was erroneously supposed to be rich. The window-shutters having remained for some time closed, some neighbours entered the cottage, when they found her lying dead on the bed, covered with a heap of rags, having her fingers broken, and a dreadful wound upon the left temple.—Joseph Shelvy (who has turned evidence,) deposed that he and Clover proceeded to the cottage, the door of which they forced with an iron coulter. There was an inner door at the bottom of the stairs, and while they were forcing it, the deceased, who was up stairs, called out, "Who's there? what do you want?" Clover burst the door, and ran up stairs. Witness told him not to hurt the woman, but he struck her twice with a road-bat. When witness went up, Clover struck her a third time: she did not speak a word. They then rifled the house. They found three one-pound notes, and various trifling articles. While they were searching for them, the deceased made a noise as if she was snuffling in blood! Upon this Clover struck her a fourth desperate blow, which extinguished life. They then went to Stephen Shelvy's house, when Clover gave his brother a share of the plunder: he took it without saying a word.—Both the prisoners were found *Guilty*.—The Judge sentenced Clover to death, but said that he should recommend Stephen Shelvy to mercy. They were both about twenty years of age, and appeared altogether unmoved during the whole trial.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

Mrs. Keighley, a lady of fortune, living in Harley-street, has been robbed of a good deal of valuable property, and it turns out that the robber was her own housekeeper, who had lived with her more than 18 years, and sustained till lately an unblemished character. This unfortunate woman had, it appears, lately married a man named *Thomas Frederic Kreese*, and it was in order to supply his extravagancies that she had committed the crime.—Kreese and his wife escaped to the Continent, and a warrant was dispatched by Salmon the officer for their apprehension. At the Hague a gen-d'arme was appointed to assist in their caption. They proceeded to Brussels, and found Mrs. Kreese in an obscure lodging, in a state of starvation. She said her husband had deserted her 8 or 9 days before, leaving her in a strange country, without money or a single friend, and she had scarcely tasted food during the last three days. Her tears, and the squalid poverty with which she was surrounded, corroborated her statement, and after an unsuccessful search for her husband, Salmon proceeded to Ostend with the wife only. On reaching Ostend he stopped at the London Hotel, the wind not serving for embarkation; and the same evening he saw a man go along the passage whose person corresponded with the description of the very man he *wanted*. Salmon followed him up stairs into a bed-room; but he solemnly denied his name was Kreese; his name, he said, was Stevens, he was a bachelor, and had not been in England within the last six years. But Salmon was not such a gudgeon as to take his word in the matter. Mrs. Kreese was in an adjoining room, and it occurred to him, that if she were suddenly introduced to this person, it would decide the question. She was introduced, and no sooner entered the room, than she ran towards the man, exclaiming, "Oh! my *dear* Thomas!" at the same time throwing her arms around his neck, and weeping audibly. Upon which the man said, "It is useless to attempt deceiving you any longer—I am the person you are looking for." He was then secured, and embarked for England. It is a singular fact, that Kreese knew there were persons in the hotel in pursuit of him some hours before Salmon took him, for the gen-d'arme, anxious to obey his own instructions, and not being able to read, had applied to Kreese himself to read them for him!—When brought before the Magistrate, several valuables, the property of Mrs. Keighley, were produced by pawnbrokers, who deposed that they received them in pledge from the prisoner Mrs. Kreese.—They were both committed to Newgate for trial.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

INHUMAN FEROCITY.—A most extraordinary assault was perpetrated in this town on Saturday night. A person named Greasley, a miller, of Carlton, having had some words with a baker named Yeomans, of Whetstone, followed him into the street, and struck him. Yeomans, not wishing to enter into combat, ran to get out of his way. Greasley pursued him, and insisted upon taking him to a constable; scarcely, however, had he dragged Yeomans five yards, before he grappled him firmly round his body, and, in the most ferocious manner, *bit off his nose!* The groans of the poor fellow were truly pitiable. Greasley did not attempt to escape, and was taken to the guard-house. Next morning he was committed to gaol. He is about 28 years of age, tall, and strongly made. Yeomans is about 40, of the middle stature: hopes are entertained of his recovery; for some time it was feared that a locked jaw might have taken place. The nose was picked up on the morning following the affray, in the street where the occurrence had taken place.—*Leicester Chronicle.*

SHOCKING OCCURRENCE.—On Thursday week, the town of Redruth was alarmed by a report that a girl named *Emma George* had hanged her infant brother; and the report was speedily ascertained to be too well founded. The unfortunate girl had indulged a wish to be freed from the anxieties and snares which she conceived awaited her in life, and supposing that there was no way of obtaining the desired end so effectually as by committing murder, which would secure her execution, and afford opportunity for preparation during her confinement, she cast her eyes about for the most suitable subject on which to execute her purpose. She could not think of hazarding the eternal welfare of another to secure her own, and she consequently abandoned the idea of taking the life of her mother, which had first suggested itself; she next thought of her brother, a child about 7 years of age, and under the supposition that she should thereby secure the everlasting happiness of the child, to whom it appears she was fondly attached, as well as her own, she determined to make him the victim. On Thursday evening she returned from working at a mine; her mother went to meeting; she prepared a noose at each end of a silk handkerchief; one she placed round the child's neck, and lifting him up, she suspended him on a crook behind the door, saying, "There, go to heaven!" Whilst engaged in this manner, she continued *singing hymns!* After she had suspended the child, she ran into the opposite room, wringing her hands, calling on God, and exclaiming, "What have I done!" Persons ran into the room, and cut down the child, but life was extinct. When she found the child was dead, she attempted to cut her throat with a large knife, but it was wrested from her. On Friday an inquest was held on the body, when a verdict of "Manslaughter" was returned, and the unfortunate girl was committed to take her trial at the assizes.—*Sherborne Mercury.*

DEPOE AND REUBEN MARTIN.—These men fought at Moulsey on Tuesday, and after a contest for an hour and seven minutes, during which twenty-one rounds were fought, Martin was declared the winner.

On Thursday week, as a gentleman residing near the Regent's-park was returning home in the afternoon, on crossing Nottingham-street, near High-street, he received a violent blow on the back of the calf of the leg, apparently from a stone thrown with great violence, which instantly lamed him; and on turning to discover the aggressor, no person could be seen near, nor what had caused the blow; but on a closer search, a small bullet was found on the spot where the blow was received, which was no doubt discharged from an air-gun, as no report was heard. Several occurrences of this nature having happened lately, the publication of the present may perhaps ultimately lead to a discovery of the offender.

MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday, in Portman-square, the Rev. William John Brodrick, son of the late Archbishop of Cashel, to Lady Elizabeth Ann Perceval, daughter of the Earl of Cardigan.

On Tuesday, at Farley Church, Lieut.-Col. John Wilson, of Chelsea College, to Emily, second daughter of Colonel Houlton, of Farley Castle, Somerset.

On Thursday, at St. George's, Hanover-square, Oswald, second son of George Smith, Esq. M.P. to Henrietta Mildred, eldest daughter of Dr. Hodgson, Dean of Carlisle.

DEATHS.

On the 13th, at Clifton, Mrs. Sophia Lee, distinguished in the literary world by the comedy of the "Chapter of Accidents," "Canterbury Tales," &c.

On the 13th inst. John Bartlet, Esq. aged 83, formerly Commander in the service of the India Company.

At Madras, in October last, Edward Richard Sullivan, Esq. aged 32, third son of the late Sir Richard Joseph Sullivan, Bart.

On Wednesday se'nnight, Mr. Wingham, Steward to Sir Richard Bedingfield. His death was occasioned by being shot in the leg by a spring-gun.—What does Sir Richard think of this?

On Thursday next,

DON JUAN, Cantos the FIFTEENTH and SIXTEENTH.

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CUSTOM HOUSE, LONDON, 13 March, 1824.

THE COMMISSIONERS of HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS do hereby give Notice,

That in consequence of directions from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, founded upon the following Resolutions of the Honourable House of Commons of the 9th, and 11th, and 12th instant, they have instructed their Officers at the several Ports in the United Kingdom, and at the places specified in the margin, to receive into Warehouses under the King's lock, at the expense and risk of the parties, all raw and thrown silk, and all Silk Manufactures, upon which the duties shall have been paid, provided the same shall be in quantities of not less than 300 lbs. weight, and in the name of one party, and provided that all raw and thrown Silk be deposited in such Warehouses on or before the 25th March instant; and that all Silk manufactures, the same being new, uncut, and wholly of Silk, be deposited in such warehouses on or before the 5th April next, in order to enable the several parties to avail themselves of the return of the duties on the raw and thrown Silk, and of the payment of bounties and allowances on Silk Manufactures, in conformity with the said Resolutions.

Coventry
Nottingham
Macclesfield
Leek.

By order of the Commissioners,
T. WHITMORE, Acting Secretary.

Copy of Resolution of the Honourable House of Commons, dated the 9th of March, 1824.

1. That from and after the 25th of March, 1824, the several duties and drawbacks on the Importation and Exportation of the several sorts of Silk hereinafter mentioned, shall cease and determine; and also, that from and after the 5th day of July, 1826, the prohibitions on the Importation of Silk Manufactures shall cease and determine, and that the following duties shall be paid in lieu thereof; that is to say—

	£.	s.	d.
On Silk, from and after the 25th day of March, 1824, viz. on Raw, or Knubs, or Husks of Silk, or Waste of Floss Silk, the lb.	0	0	3
On Thrown Silk, not dyed, the lb.	0	7	6
On manufactured Silk, from and after the 5th day of July, 1826, for every 100l. of the value thereof,	30	0	0

2. That from and after the 5th day of April, 1824, the Bounties on the Exportation of Silk Manufactures shall cease and determine, save and except on any of such manufactures as shall have been duly shipped for exportation or shall have been warehoused for that purpose, on or before the said 5th day of April, 1824.

3. That upon Silk Imported, upon which the duties shall have been paid, and which shall be warehoused on or before, and remain warehoused until after the 25th day of March, 1824, there shall be granted the following allowances, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.
On Raw Silk Imported from any part, except the British Territories in the East Indies, the lb.	0	3	3
On Silk Thrown from Raw Silk, as imported, the lb.	0	5	10
On Raw Silk imported from the British Territories in the East Indies, the lb.	0	3	0
On Silk thrown from Raw Silk, as imported, the lb.	0	4	11
On Foreign Thrown Silk imported, not dyed, the lb.	0	7	1

Copy of Resolution of the Honourable House of Commons, dated 11th and 12th of March, 1824.

"That one half of the Bounties on the Exportation of Silk Manufactures, shall be allowed on all such Manufactures as, having been warehoused, shall be taken out for home consumption, within 30 days after the 5th day of April, 1824."

CUSTOM-HOUSE, LONDON, 20th March, 1824.

THE COMMISSIONERS of HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS, in pursuance of Directions received from the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, dated the 19th instant, do hereby publish the following Resolution of the House of Commons, dated the 17th instant, viz.—

"That the following Allowances shall be granted on all Silk imported and warehoused within limited periods, in lieu of all Allowances now authorized to be granted thereon, viz.—

	£.	s.	d.
"On Raw Silk imported from any part except the British Territories in the East Indies, and upon Silk thrown from Raw Silk so imported, the lb.	0	5	3
"On Raw Silk imported from the British Territories in the East Indies, and upon Silk thrown from Raw Silk so imported, the lb.	0	3	9
"On Foreign Thrown Silk imported, not dyed, the lb.	0	7	2
"On Waste Silk, the produce of Silk thrown in Great Britain and Ireland, the lb.	0	3	9"

By order of the Commissioners,
T. WHITMORE, Acting Secretary.

BANK of ENGLAND, March 18, 1824.

THE GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK of ENGLAND give Notice,

That a GENERAL COURT will be held at the BANK, on THURSDAY the 25th instant, from Ten o'clock in the forenoon till Four in the afternoon, to take a Ballot, in pursuance of the following Demand, viz.

"We, the undersigned Proprietors of Bank Stock, each to the amount of more than Five Hundred Pounds, do hereby demand a Ballot, on the Amendment for a Dividend of Five per Cent.

"Nathl. Gundry.
"Wm. Harris.
"James Nisbett.
"Geo. Ridge.
"Wm. Mutrie.
"Wm. Nevill.
"Edward B. Lewin.
"Tho. Butts.
"Thos. Edwd. Baker."

March 18, 1824. R. BEST, Secretary.

To the PROPRIETORS of EAST INDIA STOCK.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE flattering assurances of support which I continue daily to receive from a numerous and highly respectable body of Proprietors, encourage me to entertain the most sanguine hopes of attaining the great object of my ambition at the approaching ELECTION which is fixed for TUESDAY NEXT, the 23d instant.

Mr. Mackinnon having notified his resolution not to go to the Ballot, I venture respectfully, but earnestly, to solicit the Votes and Interest of his Friends on this occasion.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
13, Bruton-street, March 19, 1824. R. T. FARQUHAR.

Sir R. T. Farquhar's Committee will sit daily at the London Tavern Bishopsgate-street, where all Communications will be thankfully received.

THE SILK TRADE.—In consequence of the great agitation excited in the public mind by the determination of Ministers to deduct the duty on silk, SHEARS and COMPANY beg leave to state, that they have reduced the whole of their new and extensive stock of novelties, which has been made expressly for the present season, to so low a scale of prices, as to defy all competition, even with the French manufacturers.—834 beautiful silk Genoa Dresses, 17s. 10d. each; 3,700 yards of elegant figured Silks, 3s. 4d.; very rich ditto, 4s.; 2,150 figured Poplins, 16½d.; extra rich, 1s. 10d.; 3,000 yards good plain and checked Taffeties, 2s. 9½d.; Gros de Naples, Ducapes, Levantines, Satins, and Sarsnets, of the richest fabric, proportionably cheap; 1,900 Shawls and Scarfs, of the most elegant description, a very great bargain; also Irish Linens, Sheetings, Table Linens, Muslins, French Cambrics, Laces, Veils, Hosiery, Gloves, Haberdashery, Fancy Trimmings, &c.—SHEARS and COMPANY, removed from Bedford House, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, to 120, REGENT-STREET, 8 doors from the Quadrant.

FOR COLDS, COUGHS, ASTHMAS, &c.

THE PECTORAL ELIXIR.—Experience during a very long period has incontestibly proved the superior efficacy of this Medicine, in all cases of Colds, Coughs, and Asthmatic Affections. By promoting gentle expectoration, it very shortly relieves the patient of a slight or recent Cold, and a few doses are generally sufficient to remove those which neglect has rendered more confirmed and obstinate, and which are accompanied with Cough, Spitting of Blood, and other serious symptoms. Its peculiar balsamic powers tend to heal soreness, and allay the irritation of the lungs, in cases of Cough; and in Asthmatic affections it assists and gives freedom to the Breath.

Sold in bottles, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. by Butlers, Chemists, 4, Cheapside, St. Paul's, and 220, Regent-street, near the Argyle Rooms, London; Waterloo-place, Edinburgh; Sackville-street, Dublin; and by the principal Medicine Venders throughout the United Kingdom.

*** Be careful to ask for Butler's Pectoral Elixir.

SIR R. JEBB'S STOMACHIC APERIENT PILLS, for the CURE of BILIOUS and LIVER COMPLAINTS, violent HEAD-ACHE, INDIGESTION, &c. (prepared only by G. WATTS and CO. Chemists, No. 475, Strand, opposite Craven-street).—These highly estimated Anti-bilious Aperient Pills of the late Sir R. Jebb, Physician Extraordinary to the late King, are eminent in removing all indispositions of the stomach and bowels, arising from an excess of bile, indigestion, flatulency, &c. &c. Their action upon the stomach is mild and pleasant, and are extremely cooling. They are particularly calculated for preventing habitual costiveness, and will be found to possess those sanative qualities that will remove a long series of diseases which ultimately result from a confined state of the bowels; they correct a bad digestion, create an appetite, and are of distinguished excellence in removing giddiness, head-ache, and sickness, occasioned by biliary derangements, or by too free a mode of living.—Sold also, by their appointment, at Messrs. Newbery and Sons, St. Paul's Church-yard; Sanger's, 150, Oxford-street; T. and C. Butler, 4, Cheapside, and Sackville-street, Dublin; Ward's, 224, Holborn, opposite Grey's-inn; Stradling's (late Tutt's), South-gate, Royal Exchange; Prout's, 229, Strand: in boxes, at 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. duty included.—There is ample allowance on the large boxes.—These pills are greatly approved of in the East and West Indies, where Liver and Bilious Complaints are so prevalent and fatal.—Where may be had, the Effervescent Seidlitz Powders, possessing all the medicinal qualities of the Seidlitz Spring in Germany, 4s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

London: printed by JOHN HUNT, in Broad-street, Golden-square, and published by him at the Examiner Office, 21, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden.—Price 7d.